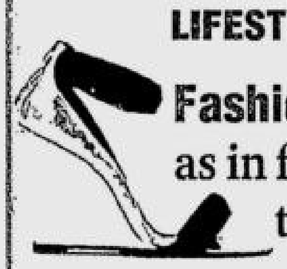
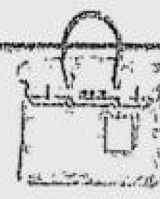




LIFESTYLE / F1

Fashion A-Z as in from Aquascutum to Zac Posen

ACROSS / A17

Jueteng fever sweeps thru Luzon; names of suspected gambling lords listed

WORLD / A24

Deadliest day in Lebanon: 72 killed, 20 tons of bombs dropped

NEWS / A2

Supreme Court rules no annulment for Amy Perez

'Queer Eye' says GMA, Imelda need no makeover

By Nikko Dizon and Joyce C. Abaño

AND NO, SHE DOESN'T NEED A MAKEOVER.

The cast of the Emmy-award-winning "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" came, saw—and noted many beautiful things and people in the Philippines, including President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"She's beautiful, isn't she?" said Kyan Douglas,

QUEER EYE/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, July 21, 2006 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 223 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Tip to teens high on MP3 players: Use 60-60 rule

LONDON—TEENAGERS and young adults who listen too loudly and too often to MP3 players risk going deaf 30 years earlier than their parents' generation, a charity warned on Thursday.

Deafness Research UK

TIP/ A8

ANO DAW? WALA AKONG NARIRINIG!

It's the usual suspect

San Juan says Gringo behind Feb. 24 plot

By Luige A. del Puerto and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TO ROGUE SOLDIERS AND civilian supporters, he was known as "Kuya," "Doc" and "Bitoy."

These code names referred to ex-Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, according to an affidavit purportedly executed by 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, who last week defected from the Magdalo group of mutineers and pledged allegiance again to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The affidavit narrated how Honasan reportedly presided over initiation rites for military recruits into Magdalo as well as over meetings from 2001 right up to a month before the aborted Feb. 24 coup attempt.

The 13-page document described Honasan as the acknowledged Magdalo leader who "always shared his own meaning of idealism (and) patriotism." It also confirmed earlier reports of Magdalo's inner workings, such as the carving of the letter K in "alibata"—the ancient Tagalog script seen on Katipunan flags—on the left inner arm of its members.

The Magdalo was the Katipunan faction led by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo during

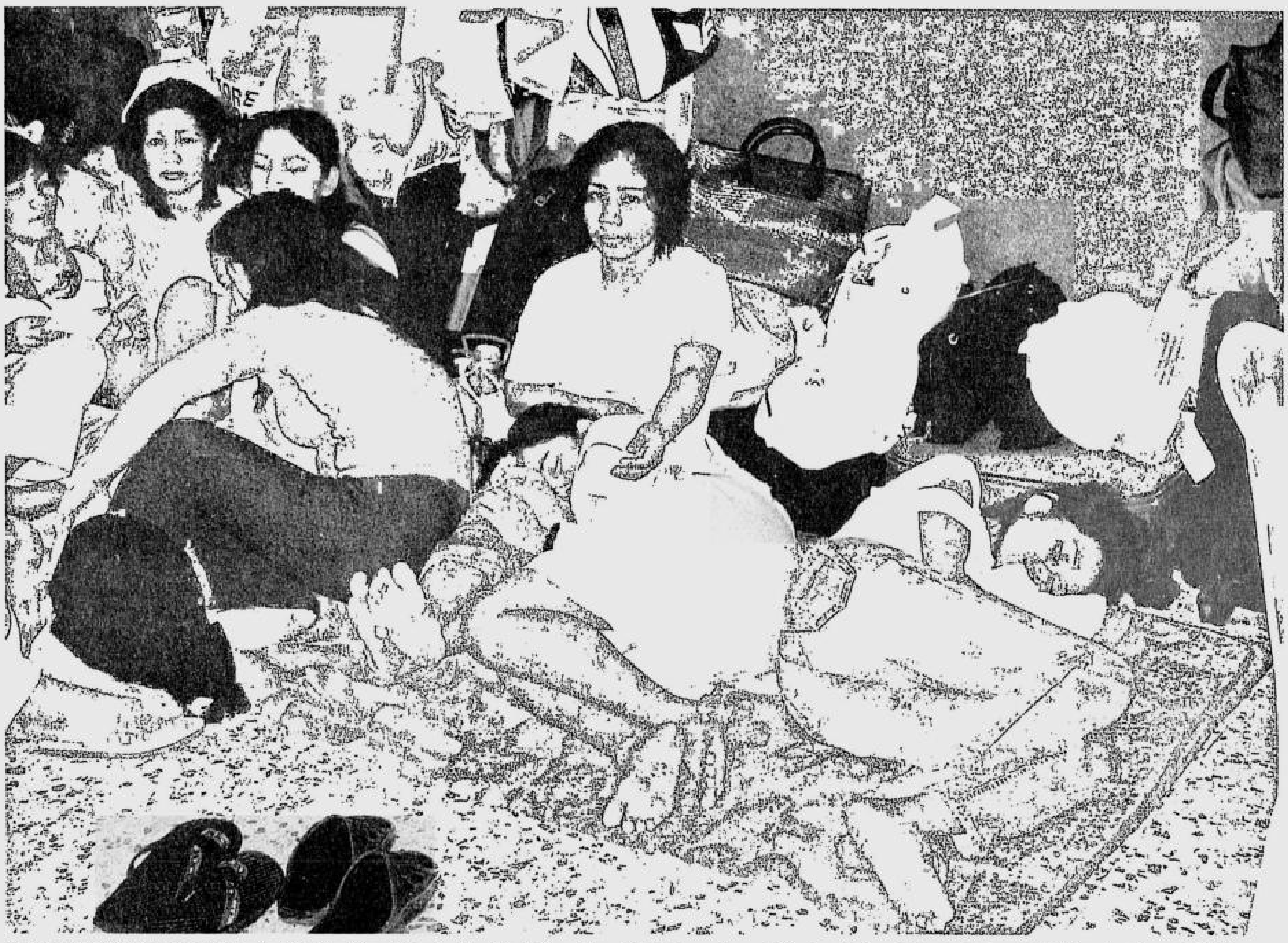
GRINGO BEHIND/ A0

Affidavit excerpts: Real reform should start now

"SOMETIME 2ND QUARTER 2001, I was approached by Cpt. Milo Maestrecampo. He told me to meet him in Zamboanga City at Jollibee near Edwin Andrews Air Base (EAAB) so we could discuss some matters. From Isabela, Basilan (my unit assignment as platoon leader, LRC). I proceeded to our meeting place and arrived at around 3-4 a.m. While we were eating, he started discussing matters pertaining to the AFP such as substandard issues, problems on logistical support, corruption, etc. In the course of our discussion, he mentioned that these problems should be addressed radically and we the junior officers, must contribute or participate or make the necessary reforms. Afterwhich, he mentioned Gringo Honasan and solicited my reaction about him. I told him that I do not know much about him except his involvement in the series of coups. Before ending our discussion, he asked if I am willing to be part of the 'concerned group' and then he added he won't rush me for any decision. I told him that I am open to his proposal.

"The second time we met was at around 10 p.m. at Garden Orchid Hotel, Zamboanga City sometime 2001. Gringo was there together with Cpt. Maestrecampo, 1Lt Tocloy and two more junior officers. Gringo told us the stories behind the 1986, 1987 and 1989 revolution. He said that the problems we are experienc-

AFFIDAVIT/ A16



SUNDAY MASS is said in this hall at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in northern Beirut, which parish priest Agustin Advincula, the only Filipino priest in Lebanon, had turned into sleeping quarters for Filipino workers displaced by the Israelis' relentless bombing. FR. AGUSTIN ADVINCULA

Beirut's lone Pinoy priest: OFWs' blessing, curse

WAY TO GO: An OFW with her 3 American wards prepares to board a cruise liner bound for Cyprus on Wednesday during the first mass evacuation of Americans. AFP

By Nikko Dizon, Jerome Aning and Christine O. Avendaño

THE WAR IN LEBANON HAS BECOME both a curse and a blessing for many Filipino workers in that beleaguered Middle East nation, according to Fr. Agustin Advincula, the only Filipino Catholic priest in the country.

"It's a curse for those who were determined to work only to be left behind by their employers who did not even leave them any money. It's a blessing for those without (proper) papers who were facing immigration problems," Advincula told the INQUIRER in an overseas phone interview last night.

Advincula said two-thirds of the Filipinos who had already left Beirut had immigration problems, while the rest had volunteered to leave and return to the Philippines.

These were the ones who had either been sent away or literally abandoned by their employers, he said.

Some 1,400 Filipino workers had registered for evacuation, Advincula said.

Of the figure, 200 had decided to stay at the St. Vincent Lodging House of the Church of the Miraculous Medal, after 192 had left for Syria yesterday.

Around 100 French nationals had also arrived to seek shelter at the center, Advincula said.

The first batch of 192 Filipinos had left Beirut by land and were expected to be in the Syrian capital of Damascus last night, Manila time.

The batch included about 70 runaways, 30 of whom were formerly detained for immigration violations, and 100 others who had been turned over by their Lebanese or Western employers.

The evacuees boarded buses that left Beirut at 9 a.m. yesterday (2 p.m. in Manila), taking an easterly route. They

BEIRUT'S/ A15

16,000 cops: City a fortress for Sona

By Luige A. del Puerto

METRO MANILA IS INCREASINGLY BEcoming a fortified territory as the police yesterday declared that a total of 16,000 cops and soldiers—not 14,000 as earlier stated—would be deployed on Monday when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address at the Batasang Pambansa.

More checkpoints will be established in the next three days in areas leading to the nation's capital, police said.

"So far we (have) covered all corners. As the day gets nearer, we get more and more confident (of our preparations)," said Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Police earlier disclosed that a special

16,000 COPS/ A15

Let the country be my judge, says Bishop Tobias

By Christian V. Esguerra

"LET THE COUNTRY BE MY JUDGE."

The Catholic bishop who admitted to harboring mutinous soldiers who escaped from detention in January made the remark yesterday, unfazed by the prospect of being charged criminally by the government.

Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias said his act was never meant to break the laws of man and that he was leaving the judgment of his guilt or innocence to the people.

"I will not put up any defense—let the country be my judge," the diminutive 65-year-old prelate said to thunderous applause at a press conference in Manila.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez earlier said the government was looking into possible criminal violations by Tobias when the bishop, in a television interview, admitted to providing sanctuary to Army 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan and six other mutinous soldiers at his official residence in Quezon City.

San Juan, Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and First Lieutenants Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Bumidang Jr. escaped from the Custodial Management Unit in Fort Bonifacio after attending a hearing at a Makati

LET THE/ A11

Defense debunks DNA evidence with 'what ifs'

By Volt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

THERE ARE MANY WAYS HUMAN DNA could have ended up on "Nicole's" panties or in the used condom later found tucked there—ways that will not support her charge of rape against four US Marines.

Defense lawyefs in the Subic rape trial yesterday tried to advance this premise when they grilled the chief of the DNA Analysis Section of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, the agency whose findings formed part of the

DEFENSE/ A8

Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains which may trigger flashfloods and landslides over the western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/20/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

No annulment for Amy Perez, SC declares

By Armand Nocum

SAYING THAT AN UNSATISFACTORY MARriage is not automatically void from the beginning, the Supreme Court has junked with finality the bid of actress Amy Perez to have her marriage to singer Brix Ferraris annulled for his alleged psychological incapacity.

In a resolution penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, the high court's first division said the basis cited by Perez—Ma. Armida Perez-Ferraris in real life—for the supposed psychological incapacity of her husband does not hold water.

Citing Article 36 of the Family Code, the court said the law was clear on the the definition of "psychological incapacity" as a serious psychological illness or personality disorder afflicting a party even before the celebration of the marriage.

"It is a malady so grave and so permanent as to deprive one of awareness of the duties and responsibilities of the matrimonial bond one is about to assume," the court said in denying Perez's motion for reconsideration.

In her petition, Perez cited Ferraris' alleged mixed personality disorder, his habit of leaving the house whenever they quarreled, his violent tendencies during epileptic attacks, infidelity, abandonment and lack of support and his preference to spend more time with the members of his band rather than with his family, among her reasons for seeking the dissolution of the marriage.

The high court said Perez's grounds were "not rooted on some debilitating psychological condition but a mere refusal or unwillingness to assume the essential obligations of marriage."

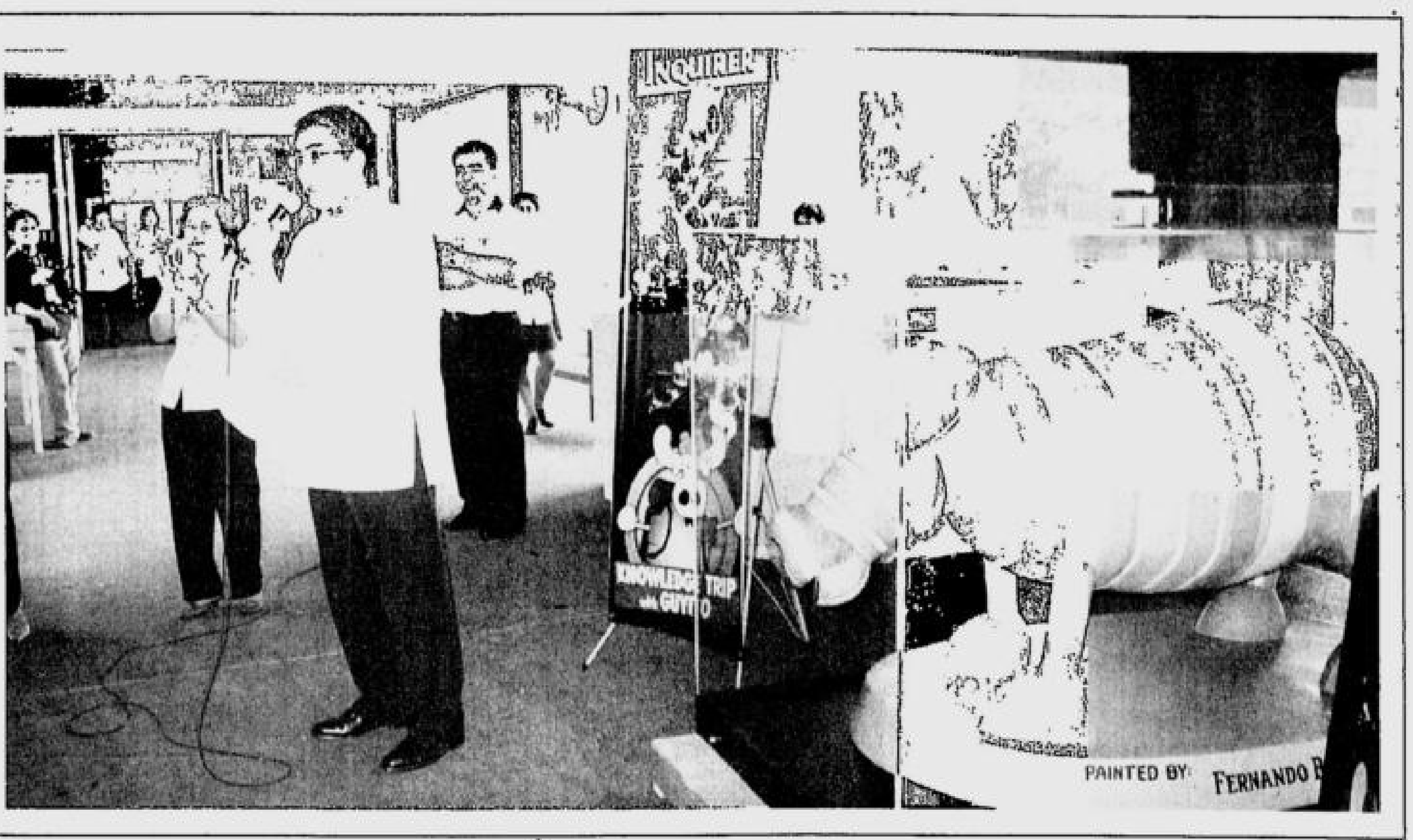
"While petitioner's marriage with the respondent failed and appears to be without hope of reconciliation, the remedy however is not always to have it declared void ab initio on the ground of psychological incapacity. An unsatisfactory marriage, however, is not a null and void marriage," the court said.

In 2001, the Pasig regional trial court denied Perez's petition for the declaration of nullity of her marriage. It noted, among other things, that suffering from epilepsy did not amount to psychological incapacity under the Family Code.

The lower court also said Perez was not able to present evidence to show that Ferraris was mentally or physically ill.

GUYITO GOES TO SCIENCE HIGH

INQUIRER senior vice president for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso turns over to Philippine Science High School chief of student services division Aurora Perez a sculpture of Guyito, the INQUIRER mascot. The PSHS earned the sculpture, painted by Fernando Sena, when student Laurenzo Alba won the Quiz Bee last year. Twenty Guyito sculptures made for the INQUIRER's 20th anniversary are being donated to 20 schools nationwide based on the public high school rankings in last year's Quiz Bee competition. A journalism workshop for the students featuring prominent Inquirer editors and columnists was also given. This seminar series is part of INQUIRER's youth readership program.



Hunger figures down—SWS

THE NUMBERS HAVE GONE DOWN, but still some 2.4 million households have reported experiencing hunger at least once in the past three months, according to a recently released survey of the Social Weather Stations.

The SWS' Second Quarter 2006 Social Weather Survey found that 13.9 percent of the projected 17.4 million household base reported that their households had experienced having nothing to eat at least once during the past three months.

This was down from the 16.9 percent level registered last March, but hunger has been at double-digits since the second quarter of 2004. The average hunger level since July 1998 is 10.9 percent.

Hunger levels declined in Mindanao (from 21 percent in March to 17.3 percent in June), in Metro Manila (from 18.3 percent to 15 percent) and in the rest of Luzon (from 14.7 percent to 10 percent). However, it slightly rose in Visayas, where it reached 17.7 percent, from 16 percent in March.

Moderate hunger

Severe hunger, which is defined as households who went hungry "often" or "always" in the last three months, declined from 4.2 percent in March to 3.4 percent, which translates to over 580,000 households.

Some 1.8 million households (10.1 percent) reported experiencing moderate hunger, or those who experienced it "only once" or "a few times" in the last three months. This was lower than the 12.7 percent registered in March.

On the other hand, the number of household heads defining themselves as "poor" rose to 59 percent in June, from the 55 percent recorded in March. The proportion of self-rated poor households rose in Mindanao (from 56 percent to 61 percent), the rest of Luzon (from 54 percent to 59 percent) and in Visayas (from 57 percent to 59 percent), while it declined slightly in Metro Manila (56 percent to 54 percent).

The Median Self-Rated Poverty Threshold, or the median monthly budget needed by self-rated poor households "to escape poverty" rose from P10,000 to P15,000 in Metro Manila, while it remained at P5,000 in the rest of Luzon and at P6,000 in Mindanao. It declined in the Visayas from P7,000 to P6,000.

The SWS survey was conducted between June 22 to 28 using face-to-face interviews of 1,200 households (300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) with error margins of plus-minus 3 for national percentages.

Self-rated poverty

Another survey from the leftist Ibon Foundation put the rate of Filipinos who consider themselves poor at almost 70 percent of Filipinos.

Ibon said this was gathered from its midyear nationwide survey of Filipinos' economic situation and the country's political circumstances.

In answer to the question, "When you look at your situation today, do you consider yourself poor," Ibon reported that 69.3 percent of the 1,487 respondents selected through a multi-stage probability sampling said "yes."

The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

Ibon said that the percentage of those who said their incomes could no longer meet their needs increased in the survey done in late June to early July—67.2 percent in the midyear survey compared to 58.8 percent in the survey done just three months earlier, in March.

Not enough income

"Low incomes and a high cost of living resulted in most Filipinos being unable to meet basic needs, according to the results of the July 2006 Ibon nationwide survey," said Ibon research director Antonio Tujan, Jr., who presented the survey findings in a news conference.

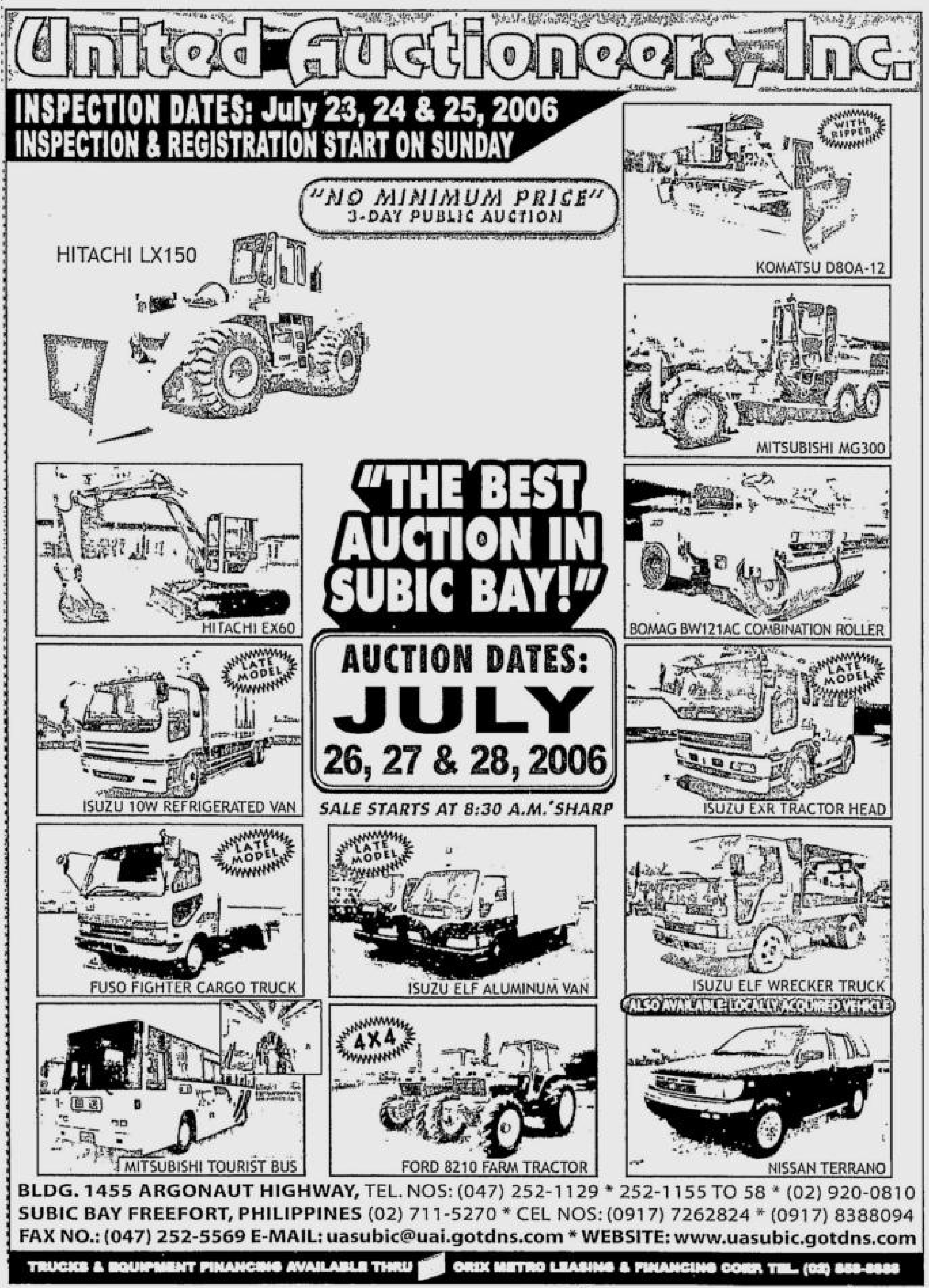
Ibon said that those who said their incomes were enough to cover their needs also dropped significantly. In March, those who said their incomes were enough were 36.6 percent of the respondents. In the midyear survey, those who said so represented just 29.3 percent.

"Part of the problem was a lack of available work or livelihood," Tujan said.

The survey showed that 43 percent of respondents said that although there were jobs and livelihood opportunities in their area, these were not enough.

Thirty-eight percent of the respondents replied that there were no available jobs or livelihood opportunities. Only 14 percent said that these were available in their areas.

As a result, 66.7 percent of respondents said that, during the past three months, they couldn't buy enough food, 64 percent had trouble paying their utility bills, 63.7 percent experienced difficulty paying for their children's schooling and 62.5 percent had problems with buying medicines or paying for medical attention. *Kate Pedroso, PDI Research and Norman Bordadora*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BUDGET IMPASSE

Palace willing to talk but won't budge on cuts

MALACAÑANG IS WILLING TO DEAL WITH the Senate on the stalled 2006 budget but it will definitely be "no deal" if the legislators insist on slashing the P8 billion in allocations to local government units (LGUs).

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said a "powerful LGU lobby" had joined Malacañang in seeking a solution to the budget impasse but stressed that the P5-billion Kilos Asenso and the P3-billion Kalayaan Barangay funds cut by the Senate from the P1.053-trillion 2006 budget must be restored.

The House of Representatives had left the two funds in the budget but the Senate elected to remove them in its version of the outlay.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's hard-line all-or-nothing stand on the budget has made it impossible for Congress to come to terms on a final budget in the bicameral conference committee.

"From what I have gathered, this deal or no deal standoff falls on these two items. The congressmen are saying they can't abandon their LGUs," Andaya said. He did not identify who comprised the LGU lobby.

Andaya remained optimistic, however, the two chambers would reach an agreement, especially if they "[left] their respective trenches and [were] receptive to compromise."

"It's a purely legislative matter," he said, but added: "Our (administration) position is unchanged."

The administration is still hoping the 2006 budget will be enacted because it provides for higher spending limits on infrastructure and social services which government economic managers said was necessary to negate the impact of high oil prices on investment spending by the private sector. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Bolante arrived in US illegally from HK–ICE

BOLANTE

LOS ANGELES—A FORMER PHILIPPINES official who is the subject of an arrest warrant in his native country arrived in the United States from Hong Kong nearly two weeks ago without a valid visa, authorities said.

Jocelyn Bolante, the country's former agriculture undersecretary, was taken into custody July 7 and is being held at the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's processing center in San Pedro, ICE spokeswoman Virginia Kice said Wednesday.

She said Bolante was given notice Wednesday to appear in federal court, although a hearing was not immediately scheduled. No charges have been filed, Kice said.

The Philippine Consulate General's office in Los Angeles did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

Bolante arrived at Los Angeles International Airport on a flight that originated in Hong Kong, said Peter Gordon, the airport's acting port director for US Customs and Border Protection.

Although Bolante is named in an arrest warrant in the Philippines, Gordon said the US government's main concern is that Bolante appears to have arrived in this country illegally.

"His visitor's visa had been revoked by the US Department of State," Gordon said.

The warrant issued in the Philippines cites accusations that Bolante diverted agricultural funds to the 2004 election campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo. It was issued after Bolante refused to appear at a hearing of a Philippine Senate committee investigating the matter. *AP*

Free calls to Lebanon for OFWs, relatives

THE COUNTRY'S top telecommunications companies—PLDT, Smart and Globe—have come to the rescue of distressed Filipinos in war-torn Lebanon and their relatives in the Philippines by providing them with free calls.

This was announced by Globe and Smart in separate press statements yesterday.

Relatives can now make free two-minute calls to their loved ones in Lebanon this weekend using any of the two million PLDT landlines and over 21 million Smart and Talk N Text mobile phone stall over the country.

This will be done under an emergency assistance program for the benefit of overseas Filipino workers families launched by PLDT using PLDT Pwede! Cards and PLDT Budget Cards.

At the same time, PLDT wireless subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. has also set up "Libreng Tawag" Centers in Metro Manila, Cebu City and Davao City. The "Libreng Tawag" Centers will provide free voice and SMS services for the families and relatives of OFWs affected by the ongoing conflict between Israel and Lebanon.

Under this program, Pwede! Card and Budget Card users will be given one two-minute free call to Lebanon or Israel on tomorrow and Sunday.

Users of these call cards can utilize PLDT landlines to make voice calls to Lebanon and Israel following the usual procedure prescribed for these cards. Moreover, PLDT Pwede! Card users can also make voice calls through Smart and Talk N Text cell phones.

Globe, too

"We are trying to do our share in helping our fellow Filipinos working abroad. We also hope that this program will help their families get through this difficult period," said PLDT and SMART spokesperson Ramon R. Isberto.

The Smart "Libreng Tawag" Centers are located at the OWWA national office in Pasay City; Owwa Region 7 office at the Mezzanine floor, LDM Bldg., MJ Cuenco cor. Legaspi St., Cebu City; and at the Owwa Region 11 office located at Door #8, PTA Complex, Magsaysay Park, Davao City.

Not to be outdone, Globe Telecom and Innove Communications launched on Wednesday "Libreng Tawag," a special outreach program for Manila-based families of OFWs in Lebanon.

In cooperation with the Owwa, Globe and Innove will be offering free IDD calls to relatives and friends of the OFWs.

The "Libreng Tawag" Center is located at the lobby of the Owwa Center Building in F.B. Harrison St. Pasay City. It will go on indefinitely until the affected OFWs are evacuated from Lebanon.

Palace hails Senga for legacy, job well done

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY GAVE HIGH praise to outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Generoso Senga for "leaving a legacy of professionalism and discipline characterized by leadership and tough decisions."

"He has done his job well," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Senga retires as AFP chief today less than a year after he was appointed to the post. He is to be replaced by Army Chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

"General Senga leaves behind a legacy of professionalism and discipline characterized by leadership and tough decisions. He has done his job well for the unity of the command and its professional stature, and he deserves the accolades of the people," said Bunye.

Malacañang has not indicated whether Senga would be given a civilian appointment like previous retired AFP chiefs.

But Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz has said he would recommend Senga for a government post because "such experience and talent like his should not go to waste."

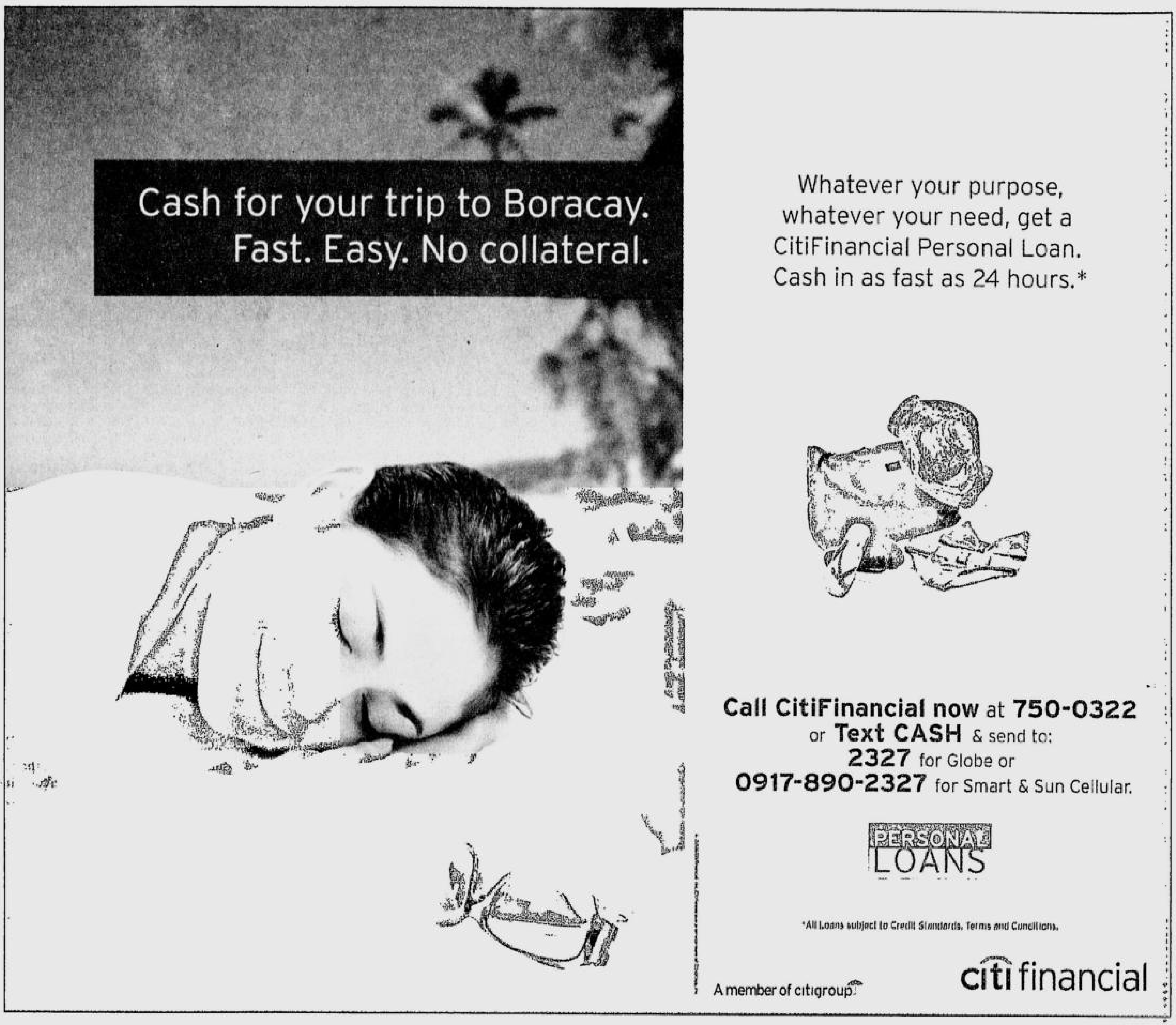
Senga's short tenure, however, has been clouded by doubt about his loyalty to the President during the critical hours of Feb. 23 when Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the dismissed commander of the First Scout Ranger Regiment, went to see him and invited him to join a group of officers in marching to Edsa the next day and declaring a withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The INQUIRER reported, quoting unnamed sources in the coup plotters' group, that Senga had wavered, citing the fact that it took the Chief of Staff two hours to report Lim's move to the Commander in Chief.

Senga has vehemently denied this, explaining that he had immediately called all the service commanders to a meeting and it took them that long to get to Camp Aguinaldo.

When she appointed Senga to the post last August, the President had high hopes for Senga as a "role model" of loyalty to the chain of command to young officers especially "at a time like this when there are so many attempts to drive a wedge within the senior officers and the young officers."

In her speech at the time, the President said it was "important for the leadership of the AFP, especially under someone who has personified the behavior of an officer and a gentleman under extremely difficult circumstances to himself and his career like General Senga, to define for the entire organization the correct path to be fostered."



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7 MONTHS OF DEFERRED COST

Napocor hikes Luzon grid rates

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER RATES FOR THE LUZON GRID of the state-owned National Power Corp. will increase by 37.97 centavos per kilowatt hour following the approval by the Energy Regulatory Commission of Napocor's application to recover seven months' worth of deferred generation, fuel and foreign exchange costs.

The ERC recently issued an order allowing Napocor to recover 1.10 centavos per kWh under the generation rate adjustment mechanism (Gram) and 36.87 centavos per kWh under the incremental currency exchange rate adjustment (Icera).

The quarterly Gram allows Napocor to recover cost fluctuations in the power it buys from independent power producers as well as fuel costs.

The Icera is a quarterly rate adjustment mechanism that allows Napocor to pass on foreign exchange fluctuations to customers.

The approved increases represent the sixth Gram and fifth Icera filings of Napocor, covering the period April 26, 2005 to Oct. 25, 2005.

The ERC said the new Luzon Gram will be recovered from customers over a nine-month period.

The Icera is divided into two components to be recovered over different periods: The debt service and operating expense component will be charged to customers over a period of eight months, while the capacity and infrastructure fee component will be recovered over 24 months.

The ERC explained that because of the long recovery periods, Napocor's deferred accounting adjustments (DAA) usually overlapped.

This means that the ERC-approved DAA under Napocor's fifth Gram and fourth Icera will still have to be recovered from customers, in addition to the newly approved recovery charges under the sixth Gram and the fifth Icera.

The recently approved rate increases will not bring any additional revenues to the state firm.

But despite being revenue-neutral, Napocor's Gram and Icera recoveries have to be approved by the ERC, unlike in the case of distribution utilities like the Manila Electric Co. which are allowed to automatically impose generation-related recoveries under the automatic generation rate adjustment (Agra) mechanism.

Napocor will get a similar automatic recovery system once the ERC approves its incremental generation cost adjustment (Igca) mechanism.

First Gen not interested in Masinloc plant

FIRST GEN, THE HOLDING COMPANY of the Lopez group of power generating assets, has "absolutely no interest" in bidding for the controversial Masinloc power plant, its vice chair and chief executive officer Peter Garrucho said.

Garrucho made the announcement in response to remarks made by Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri that the vested interests of First Gen and Meralco in the power plant caused the failure of the Masinloc privatization.

In a press statement, Garrucho said First Gen, more than any other party—local or international—had participated actively and in good faith in the privatization process of the government's power generating assets and had invested millions in preparing for bids and conducting due diligence in the interest of participating in the bidding conducted by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM)

Recognition of role

Instead of being criticized, First Gen "should be credited for our role in helping PSALM's bid processes succeed," Garrucho said.

Were it not for the First Gen's participation, the entire bid would have been a failure, he said. The $14 million collected from the winning bidder of Masinloc represents the largest proceeds collected by government from all its power privatization efforts in three years and this would not have been possible without the legitimizing bid of First Gen, Garrucho said.

Garrucho explained that First Gen bid below the reserve or minimum price of government and therefore it does not stand to gain from the failed bidding of Masinloc. Because of that, First Gen was not automatically in line to win the Masinloc plant at its bid price.

He added that First Gen believes that its bid price must allow it to offer cost-competitive power to the end consumer. First Gen's bid price reflected the market risks associated with a merchant or non-contracted power plant.

Garrucho said the way forward for the industry is to uphold and implement the EPIRA law that stipulates that utilities enter into Transition Supply Contracts (TSC) with NPC prior to being bid out. In fact under Epira, these supply contracts were meant to underpin the privatization of PSALM's assets in order to encourage more bidders and maximize privatization proceeds.

Creating balance

Implementing the Epira law in line with its original intent would result in a vital balance being struck between maximizing the proceeds of privatization and minimizing power costs to the end consumer. In fact, First Gen lauded the offer of P3.60 per kilowatt-hour made by Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla to Meralco at the time of the TSC negotiations since this would have resulted in the cheapest electricity rates to the end consumer.

To dispel any notion that First Gen remained an interested party in Masinloc, First Gen declared that it had absolutely no intention "now, or in the future," to take part in the privatization of the Masinloc power plant.

Noli pads lead over Loren in Cebu recount

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO'S WINNING margin over rival Loren Legarda in the 2004 vice presidential election has increased by 2,228 votes based on the tabulation of the revision reports of the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), according to De Castro's lawyer Romulo Macalintal.

Macalintal said that President Macapagal-Arroyo was happy when he informed her of this development in Legarda's election protest.

Macalintal explained that the conclusion reached for the vice presidential election could be the same for the presidential election as the same ballots and returns were used for the presidential and vice presidential vote count.

"There being no significant findings that would materially change the results of the election in the vice presidential position and there being no findings of the massive fraud always alleged by the opposition to have been committed in Cebu to favor President Arroyo, the result in the Legarda protest is a resounding demonstration that the President's more than one million vote-lead in Cebu alone had been affirmed and confirmed," he said.

De Castro's election lawyer also pointed out that the ballots objected to and claimed by both parties were not even considered in this tabulation.

"If Legarda fails to prove massive fraud or any material recovery from this province, the PET may dismiss her protest. However, if she proves her claim of more than 300,000 recovery from Cebu, then the PET may continue the revision of ballots from other provinces," Macalintal said.

Lawyer's opinion

But he said he was very confident that "based on the conditions of the ballots from Cebu and the fact that the physical count tallied with the corresponding election returns," there would be no way for Legarda to recover any votes from Cebu, which would ultimately result in the dismissal of her protest.

Legarda's lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, however, dismissed Macalintal's claim as his own conclusions.

"Whatever one lawyer says is his own opinion. Ultimately, it will be the PET that will have [the] final opinion on this," Brillantes said.

"We're quite sure that we'll be able to easily present manufactured ballots and returns in substantial numbers and recover some 300,000 votes in Cebu alone and 40,000 votes guaranteed in four towns in Lanao del Sur upon the examination of these ballots," he said.

He said he had already objected to 90 percent of the ballots cast in Cebu province and agreed to only 10 percent.

Macalintal said that De Castro's additional lead came about as a result of the physical recount of ballots from 38 municipalities in Cebu conducted by the revisors of both camps.

100% recount

The Cebu recount was 100 percent complete, covering 1.5 million ballots, he said.

Macalintal said that De Castro's lead over Legarda before the PET even increased from 688,538 votes based on the Cebu provincial certificate of canvass (CoCs) used in the Congress tabulation, to 690,766 votes in the physical recount before the PET.

In the Congress overall tally, De Castro garnered 886,910 votes over Legarda's 198,372 votes. But in the PET recount, De Castro increased his votes to 890,074 against Legarda's 199,308.

Macalintal said that De Castro gained 3,164 votes in the PET recount while Legarda earned 936 votes, or a net increase in margin of 2,228 votes in favor of De Castro.

"This negates persistent claims by the opposition of alleged massive fraud in Cebu where President Arroyo led by more than one million votes over her rivals in the 2004 polls," he said.

The PET has given the lawyers of both camps until Monday to submit their proposals/suggested procedures on how to evaluate and examine the ballots, and the possibility of appointing a hearing officer outside of the PET.

Macalintal acknowledged that the physical examination of the ballots could take six months to complete, particularly if Legarda's camp would insist on examining each ballot.

Brillantes said the examination could begin in three months.

Correction

IN THE JULY 20 ISSUE, a front-page story—"RP plea: Please allow Filipinos to hitch ride"—misspelled the surname of an undersecretary of foreign affairs. The correct spelling of the name of the foreign undersecretary for migrant workers' affairs is Esteban Conejos—not Cornejo—Jr.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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PRC files raps vs 2 nursing board members

By Alcuin Papa

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY COMMISSION (PRC) said yesterday it had filed administrative charges against two members of the Board of Nursing who contributed questions to the nursing board exams on the suspicion that these were leaked to some examinees.

PRC Chair Leonor Rosero also told the INQUIRER yesterday that the 17,000 nursing graduates who passed the board exams given in June could still lose their licenses later if it were found that there had been a "leakage" of exam questions.

"The more than 17,000 nurses who passed the recent board exam may take their oath on Aug. 22. But if the National Bureau of Investigation finds evidence of a leakage on the examiners' part, their (nursing graduates) licenses could still be revoked or suspended," Rosero said.

Rosero yesterday confirmed administrative charges had been filed against Board of Nursing members Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja "for neglect of duty that gave rise to the leakage of test questions."

If found guilty, Rosero said the two could lose their registration certificates and professional licenses.

Presidential appointees

Both were told to go on leave until the investigation was completed. The PRC does not have the authority to suspend or remove them from office since the two are presidential appointees, but the questions they contributed to the PRC's Test Questions Data Bank for nursing were deleted.

The PRC has also asked the NBI and the Department of Justice to investigate the matter and determine the criminal liabilities of any party.

The filing of administrative charges against Dionisio and Madeja was based on the report of an independent fact-finding committee formed by Rosero on June 28.

"The committee did not establish how it (leakage) got to the examinees. That is why we gave it to the NBI. We would like to clarify that the leakage did not come from the PRC but outside it. It was beyond our control," Rosero said.

The PRC excluded about 20 questions prepared by Madeja for Test III (Nursing Practice III) from the computation of the results. It also nullified the results of Test V (Nursing Practice V) after some examinees "may have benefited from the handwritten notes leaked from the test questions" prepared by Dionisio.

Rosero said the PRC decided not to nullify the entire exam—given on June 11 and 12—because the questions from Madeja and Dionisio that were allegedly leaked did not affect the overall result of the exam. She said the integrity of the exam was intact.

Each of the five Board of Nursing examiners is assigned to submit 100 questions for a particular area of the exam. Of the 500 questions submitted, 100 are randomly picked to constitute the exam. The questions are then stored in a data bank for possible use in future exams.

"In the case of Test III, the remaining (80) questions were good enough to measure the students' knowledge of the subject. In the case of Test V, the result would not have affected the grades of the examinees," Rosero said.

No advantage

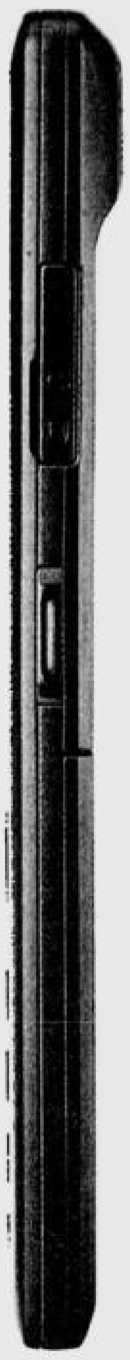
She said the PRC hired a statistician who came up with a formula that led the agency to decide on the outcome of the exam.

"There was a formula that was given in the computation of the results that would make invalid the effect of any leakage. We also found that if you had access to the leakage, it would not have favored you. The statistics and our methods will bear us out," Rosero said.

She said she was able to question Dionisio and Madeja about the alleged leakage recently but both disavowed any knowledge of it. The PRC has refused to furnish the INQUIRER contact numbers for the two.

Allegations of cheating surfaced in Baguio City after nursing graduates there complained of a leakage that allegedly emanated from the R. A. Gapuz Review Center in the city.

The review center has denied any involvement in the leakage. Ray Gapuz, company founder and chair, admitted, however, that he had received a faxed copy of an 18-page handwritten manuscript a day before the exams. The manuscript supposedly contained topics that came out in the board exams.



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	FOR NEGOTIATED SALE					
	DASMARIÑAS CAVITE					
1	B4 L56 Village Park Dasmarinas, Cavite	Rowhouse	20.00	38	176,880.00	
2	B77 L 19 & 21 Cityhomes Burol, Brngy. Burol Dasmarinas Cavite	Rowhouse	30.71	38	301,400.00	
3	B23 L77 Zinc St., Goldenville Subd. Phase I Dasmarinas Cavite	Rowhouse	21.00	35	173,800.00	
4	B10 L29 Village Park Subdivision DasmarinasCavite	Rowhouse	25.00	38	181,940.00	
5	B14 L39 Daisy St., Cityhomes Resortville Ph. 1 Lancaan Dasmarinas	Single Attached	36	76	300,080.00	
6	B 12 L2 Jasmine cor Daisy Sts., Village Park Subd. Langkaan Dasmarinas Cavite	Rowhouse	25	56	266,860.00	
7	B59 L30 Matabungkay St., Cityhomes Resortville, Lancaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Rowhouse	24	38	159,500.00	
	LAGUNA					
1	B4 LA Summerville Subd., Pansol Calamba, Laguna	Townhouse	73.1	72	381,040.00	with illegal occupants
2	B2 L21 Progressive Village, Tagapo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	House & Lot	30	119	1,136,300.00	With illegal occupant
3	B22 L1 cor. Palosapis St., Alfonso Homes 1, Brgy. Labas, Sta. Rosa	1 stry. lofty-type	72	71.4	894,300	
4	B27 L10 cor Calatagan Loop & Tindalo St., Alfonso Homes, Sta. Rosa	1 stry. lofty-type	90	68	962,500	
	VILLA MILAGROSA TOWNHOMES					
	BGY. SAN VICENTE, SAN PEDRO LAGUNA					
1	Blk. 1 Lot 28	Townhouse	46.25	43.00	664,125.00	occuppied
2	Blk. 1 Lot 31	Townhouse	41.00	33.00	583,340.30	vacant
3	Blk. 5 Lot 14	Townhouse	46.25	35.00	566,225.00	vacant
4	Blk. 5 Lot 22	Townhouse	46.25	35.00	556,067.91	occuppied
5	Blk. 6 Lot 8	Townhouse	41.00	30.00	574,560.60	vacant
6	Blk. 6 Lot 10	Townhouse	41.00	46.00	572,440.00	occuppied
7	Blk 9 Lot 6	Townhouse	41.00	33.00	549,890.00	occuppied
	NCR					
1	No. 75 Faustino St. Bo. Punturin, Valenzuela Metro Manila	Single Detached	68.35	300	1,122,000.00	with illegal occupant
2	No. 18 Violet Road, Pilar Village, Almanza, Las Piñas City	Single Attached	172.8	368	2,830,300.00	w/ illegal occupant
3	B26 L5 BF Martinville Las Pinas City	Lot only		140	739,200.00	w/ illegal occupant
4	B26 L5 BF Martinville Las Pinas City	Lot only		464	2,449,920.00	w/ illegal occupant
5	Blk 1 Lot 13, BF Homes, Caloocan City	Lot only		240	792,000.00	vacant
	RIZAL					
1	B34 L24 Antipolo Hills, San Luis, Antipolo	Single Detached	29.5	120	484,000.00	w/ illegal occupant
2	B78 L22 Antipolo Hills Subd. P2, Antipolo	Single Detached	29.5	120	524,700.00	w/ illegal occupant
3	Blk. B Lot 5 Windy St., Cozy Homes, Angono Rizal	House & lot	64.00	180	551,100.00	with illegal occupant
	BULACAN					
1	B23 L49, Verde Heights Subdivision Bo. Gaya-Gaya, SJDM, Bulacan	House & lot	26.00	40	216,700.00	
2	B6 L14, Town & Country Exec. Village Marilao, Bulacan	House & lot	243.00	281	1,696,200.00	with illegal occupants
3	B23 L43, Verde Heights Subdivision Bo. Gaya-Gaya, SJDM, Bulacan	Rowhouse	29.40	40.00	229,900.00	with illegal occupants
4	B3 L13 Meyland, Village II Meycauyan Bulacan	Duplex	49.00	68	684,200.00	
5	B22 L30 Verde Heights Subd., Bo. Gaya Gaya SJDM Bulacan	House & lot	26.00	60	282,700.00	with illegal occupants
6	B 14 L11 Willowbend Subdivision Phase I, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	201,300.00	
7	B 28 L36 Willowbend Subdivision Phase I, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	201,300.00	
8	B 30 L11 Willowbend Subdivision Phase I, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	206,800.00	
9	B 49 L33 Willowbend Subdivision Phase I, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	201,300.00	
10	B 27 L37 Willowbend Subdivision Phase II, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	204,600.00	
11	B 18 L6 Willowbend Subdivision Phase II, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	206,800.00	
12	B 6 L21 Willowbend Subdivision Phase II, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	204,600.00	
13	B 23 L27 Willowbend Subdivision Phase II, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	201,300.00	
14	B 5 L5 Willowbend Subdivision Phase II, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	201,300.00	
15	B 19 L24 Willowbend Subdivision Phase I, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	201,300.00	
16	B 12 L24 Willowbend Subdivision Phase I, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	201,300.00	
17	B 31 L13 Willowbend Subdivision Phase I, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	206,800.00	
18	B 13 L33 Willowbend Subdivision Phase I, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	201,300.00	
19	B 16 L37 Willowbend Subdivision Phase I, Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	Rowhouse	18	37	206,800.00	
20	B 19 L 28 Verde Heights Subd. Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan	Rowhouse	22.40	40	228,800.00	
21	B 22 L 60 Verde Heights Subd. Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan	Rowhouse	22.40	40	228,800.00	
22	B 26 L 57 Verde Heights Subd. Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan	Rowhouse	22.40	40	228,800.00	
23	B 30 L 26 Verde Heights Subd. Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan	Rowhouse	38	40	267,300.00	
24	B 9 Lot 18 Nepo Homes Subdivision Pulong Buhangin, Sta.Maria, Bulacan	Rowhouse	20	36	204,600.00	
25	B 16 L 30 Villa Grande Subdivision Lambakin, Marilao, Bulacan	Rowhouse	32	35	272,800.00	
26	B 9 Lot 36 Nepo Homes Subdivision Pulong Buhangin, Sta.Maria, Bulacan	Rowhouse	20	36	204,600.00	
27	B 9 Lot 42 Nepo Homes Subdivision Pulong Buhangin, Sta.Maria, Bulacan	Rowhouse	34	36	279,400.00	
28	B 9 Lot 34 Nepo Homes Subdivision Pulong Buhangin, Sta.Maria, Bulacan	Rowhouse	20	36	204,600.00	
	BACOLOD					
1	B21 L20 Chestnut St., Villa Angela Subd. Villamonte, Bacolod	Lot only		240	528,000.00	Regional account
	ILOILO CITY					
1	B1 L19 & 20 Camantique St., Gran Plain Subd., Jaro Iloilo City	House & lot	496	600	4,588,100.00	Regional account
2	B3 L4 Villa Matilde Subdivsion, Our Lady of LourdesJaro, Iloilo City	House & lot	316	396	3,553,000.00	Regional account
3	B6 L15 Landheightsville Subd., Tagbac, Jaro, Iloilo City	Lot only	-	100	198,000.00	Regional account
4	B2 L14 CPU FA Heritage Subd. Pavia, Iloilo City	Lot only	-	248	217,800.00	Regional account
5	B8 L1 Ramonville Subdivision Tabuc Suba Iloilo City	House & lot	270	251	1,954,700.00	Regional account
	LAPULAPU CITY					
1	Lady Di s Compound Tampus Rd., Basak Lapu Lapu City	2 storey Duplex	224	485	2,339,700.00	Regional account
	NAGA CITY					
1	B6 L2 No. 17 Socorro St , Villa Sorabella Con. Grande Naga City	House & lot	207.3	300	1,925,000.00	Regional account
	GENERAL SANTOS CITY					
1	B1 L1 Johnny Ang Subd. Lagao, Gen Santos City	Single Storey	84	408	822,800.00	
	CAGAYAN DE ORO					
1	L49 B1 Xavier Estates Cagayan de Oro City	Lot only	-	186	777,700.00	
2	Paz Village Brgy. 24-A Gingoog City	House & lot	68	338	304,700.00	w/ illegal occupant
3	National Highway Camague Iligan City	House & lot	322	550	3,383,600.00	w/ illegal occupant
4	Caba Compound Borromeo St., Surigao City	3 storey	108	42	942,700.00	
5	Lot 16 Blk. 5 Transville Homes, Villaflor, Oroquieta City	House & lot	34.1	110	165,000.00	
6	Lot 21 Blk. 2 Mindanao Homes, Pagatpat Cagayan de Oro City	Single attached	30	69	154,000.00	w/ caretaker
7	Lot 9 Blk. 8 Mindanao Homes, Pagatpat Cagayan de Oro City	House & lot	30	72	157,300.00	
8	Lot 5 Blk. 25 Regency Plains Iponan Cagayan de Oro City	House & lot	30	59	174,900.00	
	PAMPANGA					
1	Block 8 Lot 165-B, Quebiawan Subdivision, San Vicente, San Fernando	SD	67	150	478,500.00	w/ illegal occupant
2	Block 8 Lot 10-A, Ramar Village, San Agustin, San Fernando	SA	123	183	721,600.00	w/ illegal occupant
3	Block 6 Lot 8, Sunlight View Village, Sindalan, San Fernando	SA	50	123	693,000.00	w/ illegal occupant
4	Block 1 Lot 1-A, Villa Classica Subdivision, Del Rosario, San Fernando	SA	76	117	348,700.00	w/ illegal occupant
	ISABELA					
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2	Block 8 Lot C, Capitol Hills Subdivision, Alibagu, Ilagan	SD	30	105	198,000.00	w/ illegal occupant
3	Block 28 Lot 26, Capitol Hills Subdivision, Alibagu, Ilagan	SD	30	105	198,000.00	w/ illegal occupant
	PANGASINAN					
1	160 Castro Sarmenta Subdivison, Bolosan District, Dagupan City	SD	96	185	1,108,250.00	w/ illegal occupant
2	Lot 5721-G Greenvalley Subdivision, Barangay Malued, Dagupan City Pangasinan	ONE STOREY	123	246	1,340,900.00	w/ illegal occupant
3	Block 4 Lot 22,Villa Sta. Barbara Phase II(lower) Bgy Minien East Sta Barbara Pangasinan	SINGLE DETACHED	53	120	339,900.00	w/ illegal occupant
4	Lot 5721-G Greenvalley Subdivision, Barangay Malued, Dagupan City Pangasinan	ONE STOREY	123	246	1,340,900.00	w/ illegal occupant
	TARLAC					
1	Block 20 Lot 3, Family Park Homes, Hacienda Luisita, Bgy. Cut-Cut II Tarlac	TWO STOREY	54	83	437,800.00	OCCUPIED
2	Block 20 Lot 1, Family Park Homes, Hacienda Luisita, Bgy. Cut-Cut II, Tarlac	TWO STOREY	54	90	564,300.00	OCCUPIED
3	Block 19 Lot 24, Family Park Homes, Hacienda Luisita, Bgy. Cut-Cut II Tarlac	TWO STOREY	40	59	319,000.00	
4	Block 18 Lot 33, Family Park Homes, Hacienda Luisita, Bgy. Cut-Cut II, Tarlac	TWO STOREY	40	60	321,200.00	
	ISABELA					
1	Block 12 Lot 5, Georgetown Subdivision, Barangay Rizal, Santiago City Isabela	SINGLE DETACHED	39	81	161,700.00	
2	Block 4 Lot 32, Santiago Valley Homes, Barangay Patul, Santiago City Isabela	LOT ONLY	N/A	180	257,400.00	
	FOR CONSOLIDATION OF TCT:					
	CAVITE:					
	DASMARIÑAS CAVITE					
1	B28 L50 Cityhomes Resortville Lancaan Dasmarinas Cavite	Rowhouse	24.55	38.0	147,840.00	
2	B6 L14 Village Park Dasmarinas Cavite	Rowhouse	25.00	38.0	148,500.00	
3	B17 L38 Ilang-ilang St., Village Park Ph. 1, Langkaan, Dasmariñas	RH	35	38	213,400.00	With Illegal occupant
	TRECE MARTIREZ CITY					
1	B3 L26-A Tradition Homes Ph. 1, Bo. Luciano	RH	20.67	37.5	191,400.00	
2	B3 L21-A Tradition Homes Ph. 1, Bol. Luciano	RH	20.67	37.5	206,800.00	
	NCR					
1	B25 L32 Alley 25 Kingstown Village Bagumbong Caloocan City	Rowhouse	21	55	389,400.00	
2	B18 L5-B (No. 2132) P. Binay St., Brgy. Bangkal, Makati City	Two Storey	195	220	6,639,600.00	with illegal occupant
3	No. 15 DBP Road Brgy. Pulang Lupa Dos, Las Piñas City	Lot only	-	443	3,021,700	with illegal occupant
4	Blk. 1 Lot 44 Caliraya St., Marian Lakeview Park Subd. Sn Martin de Porres Paranaque	House & Lot	85.6	87	750,200.00	with illegal occupant
5	Blk. 12 Lot 9-B Kingstown Village, Bagumbong Caloocan City	House & Lot	36	70	349,800.00	
6	B26 L11 Faith Lane, Christianville Subd., Talon 5, Las Piñas city	Townhouse	42	35	504,900.00	with illegal occupant
	RIZAL					
1	Blk. 5 Lot 6 Maris Townhomes, Antipolo Rizal	Townhouse	51.25	53	1,007,600.00	with illegal occupant
2	B10 L2 Vista Verde Country Homes 4 Bgy. Munting Dilaw Antipolo City	Lot only	-	200	726,000.00	
3	B77 L11 Molave St., Antipolo Hills Subd., Bgy. San Luis Antipolo City	House & Lot	36.00	120	429,000.00	with illegal occupant
	BULACAN					
1	B2 L9 Alley 4 Poblacion III, Muzon, SJDM Bulacan	Rowhouse	20	50	237,600.00	
	BATAAN					
1	B7 L18, Sta. Monica Homes, Bo. Caamaya, Mariveles, Bataan	House & Lot	33	100	314,600.00	
2	B7 L19 & 20, Sta. Monica Homes, Bo. Caamaya, Mariveles, Bataan	House & Lot	33	100	403,700.00	
	LAGUNA					
1	B4 L82 St. Anthony St., Ph. 1, St. Joseph Village 6, Brgy. Butong, Cabuyao	Res. Townhouse	40	40	308,000.00	With Illegal occupant
2	B15 L4 Lauan Lane, Alfonso Homes 1, Brgy. Labas, Sta, Rosa	1 stry. lofty-type	54	72	794,200	
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(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
OIC-VICE PRESIDENT
PROJECT MANAGEMENT/ACQUIRED
ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI–July 21, 2006)

Groups seek injunction vs Lafayette

SEEKING TO STOP MINING ACTIVITY IN the town of Rapu-Rapu, Albay, environment groups, concerned artists and television personalities joined the island's residents yesterday and sought an injunction case against mining firm Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI) and Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Members of Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, personalities Chin-Chin Gutierrez and Miriam Quiambao and residents of Rapu-Rapu filed the civil suit yesterday morning at the Makati Regional Trial Court to seek the halt of the 30-day test run of Lafayette's polymetallic project.

"We learned that recently that there was a new spill besides the two spills last year. So what we are saying is the permit for another test run should have no effect anymore because it shows that their promises could not be fulfilled," said lawyer Howard Calleja.

"Now they promised to be safe, but there's a third minespill, so what are we waiting for? Are we waiting for a disaster to happen?" Calleja continued, referring to a reported spillage at the onset of the test run last week.

No issue

Signed by 800 individuals, the petition asked for the immediate issuance of a temporary restraining order (TRO) to stop the Australian mining firm from pursuing the test run while the court has yet to decide on whether or not it will issue a permanent injunction.

"...We seek to enjoin respondents from further mining in the Rapu-Rapu area in view of the grave injustice and irreparable damage caused by mining activities and all those that may still be caused by them as a result of ongoing operations," the petition read.

The test run, granted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), sought to check whether remedies the firm implemented to ensure the safety of its operations would be effective.

LPI's operations were suspended in November last year after two tailspills leaked toxic waste into creeks in the island last October.

LPI was slapped with a P10.7-million for the spill, blamed for widespread fishkill in the area.

"Future generations, residents and nonresidents of Rapu-Rapu alike, are clearly entitled to enjoy the natural resources present in the fragile island ecosystem of Rapu-Rapu. To deprive them of such... will only be a clear and blatant violation of this present generation's role as stewards of the country's natural resources," the petition read.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 21, 2006
15th Week in Ordinary Time
Lawrence of Brindisi

1st Reading: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8
Gospel: Matthew 12:1-8

It happened that Jesus walked through the wheat fields on a Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and began to pick some heads of wheat and crush them to eat the grain. When the Pharisees noticed this, they said to Jesus, "Look at your disciples; they are doing what is prohibited on the Sabbath!"

Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his men were hungry? He went into the house of God, and they ate the bread offered to God, although neither he nor his men had the right to eat it, but only the priests. And have you not read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the Temple break the Sabbath rest, yet they are not guilty?

I tell you, there is greater than the Temple here. If you really knew the meaning of the words: It is mercy I want, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent.

Besides the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Commentary

Hezekiah is dying and prays fiercely. Isaiah is sent to him with words of healing—adding 15 years to his life, promising to rescue the city from Assyria, and so be the shield of Israel. Even a sign is given by God's kindness. The sign we have been given is God in human flesh in the person of Jesus who walks the earth and worships God wholeheartedly. He reinterrupts Scriptures and history to promote life and the freedom of the children of God and say again that God only wants mercy not sacrifice. This is the word and power of the Son of Man, Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. Do we hear and take Jesus' words and deeds to heart in our lives?

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Ombudsman insists it can probe Comelec execs

By Nelson F. Flores

THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERDAY rejected the claim of the Commission on Elections that it had no authority to investigate impeachable officials.

In an 11-page order, the Office of the Ombudsman, through its panel investigating the nullified P1.3-billion Mega Pacific elections computerization deal, cited the Ombudsman Act of 1989 which states: "The Office of the Ombudsman shall have the power to investigate any serious misconduct in office allegedly committed by officials removable by impeachment, for the purpose of filing a verified complaint for impeachment, if warranted."

For his part, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said he was mulling what course to take after the Ombudsman's ruling, but he stressed that he was ready to face an investigation.

"I intend to study the order which I understand the Ombudsman issued this morning. I must reiterate, however, that I am ready to defend myself in an appropriate investigation," he said in a statement.

Abalos said he wanted to uphold the status of the Comelec as a constitutional body whose members could only be removed by impeachment and, therefore, only investigated after they were impeached.

"I owe it to my office to assert the lack of jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to prevent the erosion of the dignity of the Comelec as a constitutional body," he said.

Abalos and Election Commissioners Florentino Tuazon Jr. and Resurreccion Borra had earlier questioned the Ombudsman's authority to investigate impeachable officials.

On June 30, the Ombudsman issued a resolution recommending the filing of an impeachment complaint against Borra who was project head for Phase II of the poll automation project.

The Ombudsman panel stated in its latest order that the term "serious misconduct" meant all grounds for impeachment enumerated in the Constitution and not just administrative offenses or serious misconduct as defined in the Civil Service Law.

It also clarified that the Ombudsman did not need a formal charge to investigate alleged anomalous transactions in government because of its *motu proprio* (of its own volition) power.

The order stated that "the hearings being conducted by the Ombudsman investigating panel should forthwith proceed."

Federico Alday, lawyer for Abalos and Tuazon, said he had yet to receive a copy of the Ombudsman's order.

"Although I still have to talk to my clients, we will be coordinating with the panel. If subpoenaed, they (Abalos and Tuazon) will appear at the next hearing," Alday said.

At yesterday's hearing, meanwhile, the panel invited resource persons from the Department of Science and Technology to explain the procedures used to evaluate the automated counting machines submitted for testing by Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc. and Technology Information Management (TIM), the two bidders to qualify.

Science and Technology Secretary Celia Alabastro said Mega Pacific's machine passed in 21 of 27 key testing areas while that of TIM passed in 16 but failed in 11 areas. She stressed that the DOST only conducted a technical evaluation but did not make any recommendations to the Comelec.

For his part, Alfredo Lazaro, lawyer for Mega Pacific, expressed confidence the Ombudsman will clear his clients.

With Jerome Aning

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with Author Rick Warren / Team
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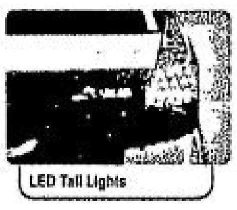

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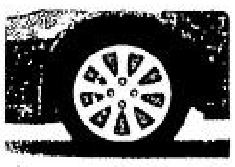

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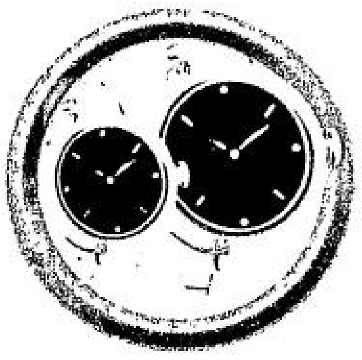

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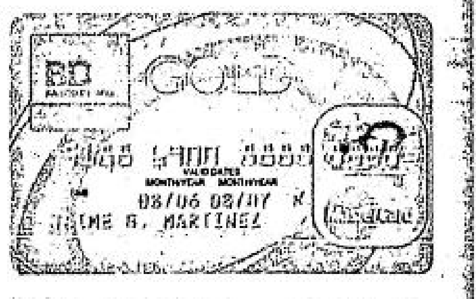

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Construction magnate denies Señeres claims

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE SON OF A CONSTRUCTION magnate yesterday denied claims by former Ambassador Roy Señeres that he was among a group of businessmen who allegedly encouraged the military's withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24.

"I have never withdrawn support from the present government nor do I intend to do so," Felipe A. Cruz, Jr. said in his affidavit, which his lawyer Alberto Reyes II delivered to the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

Cruz, who's himself a construction magnate, denied Señeres's allegation that he and Inigo Zobel had called the former ambassador on June 25, 2005 and invited him to his home to watch the "I'm sorry" speech of Ms Arroyo.

"Had Mr. Señeres first checked his facts, he would have realized that we could not have watched the speech of the President on June 25 because she appeared on television on June 27," Cruz said in his affidavit submitted to NBI Special Task Force chief Reynaldo Esmeralda.

A glass of cogniac

Cruz also said that he and Zobel did not share a glass of cognac with Señeres because it was the first time they met him.

"How could they share a glass of cognac when they were not even close friends? Serving Mr. Señeres other refreshments like a glass of juice may have been more logical," Cruz's counsel Reyes told reporters in an interview.

Cruz recounted in his affidavit that Señeres "went unannounced" to his Dasmariñas home with a good friend, Ed Morales, while he was holding a business meeting with Zobel.

Morales, in a separate affidavit which was also submitted by Reyes yesterday, explained that Señeres had called and excitedly informed him that he was able to obtain a copy of the original version of the "Hello Garci" conversation.

Morales added that he brought Señeres to Cruz's home after the former ambassador agreed to play the cellular phone recording for them.

Curiosity

"Out of common decency and probably because our curiosity was piqued at the then current talk of the town, we endured through a garbled version of the "Hello Garci" conversation for about 10 minutes," Cruz said.

The businessman added, "It turned out that Mr. Señeres was making a big fuss over what was no different from what had been played over the radio and television stations beforehand."

Reyes said they could not file libel charges against Señeres because his accusations only came out in the newspapers and were not included in his affidavit.

Perjury?

"He (Señeres) could always say he was misquoted by the papers," Reyes explained.

"It is now up to the government to file perjury charges against him if they find out that he had lied in his sworn statement," the lawyer added.

Defense tries to debunk DNA evidence with 'what ifs'

From page A1

prosecution evidence.

As the prosecution's 21st witness, Chief Insp. Francisco Supe previously told the court that the panties Nicole wore on the night of her alleged rape had yielded both female and male DNA profiles and the condom's interior a female DNA profile.

Supe also reported during direct examination that the female DNA found in the condom and on the panties "matched" Nicole's DNA, which was earlier obtained from a blood sample she had given for comparison.

In cross-examining Supe, the defense lawyers posed many "what ifs" and made the forensic analyst agree with the different scenarios wherein a male and a female could swap DNA material on their skin or clothing.

They also made him concur that DNA findings could also be considered unreliable because of the "contamination" of the examined items.

Amused judge, gallery

Some of the scenarios—such as one offered by Benjamin Formoso (counsel for Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith)—visibly amused both Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon and the gallery.

Formoso asked Supe if it was possible for a dancing couple to swap DNA samples through their sweat, and for the man's sweat to trickle down to the woman's panties. (The lawyer was alluding to Nicole's earlier testimony that she and Smith danced at the crowded Neptune Club in Subic prior to the alleged rape.)

Said Supe: "It's possible."

Again referring to Nicole's previous accounts, the lawyer asked: If the man also kissed the girl, can he transmit his DNA sample through his saliva?

"Maybe," Supe said, adding that it was only possible "if he was kissing the panty."

Some members of the gallery broke into laughter when Supe, at one point claiming difficulty in understanding Formoso, said: "I can't relate to the question. If there's consensual sex, there wouldn't be any panty."

Formoso had actually asked him if it was possible for a man to leave his DNA on the woman's underwear during consensual sex.

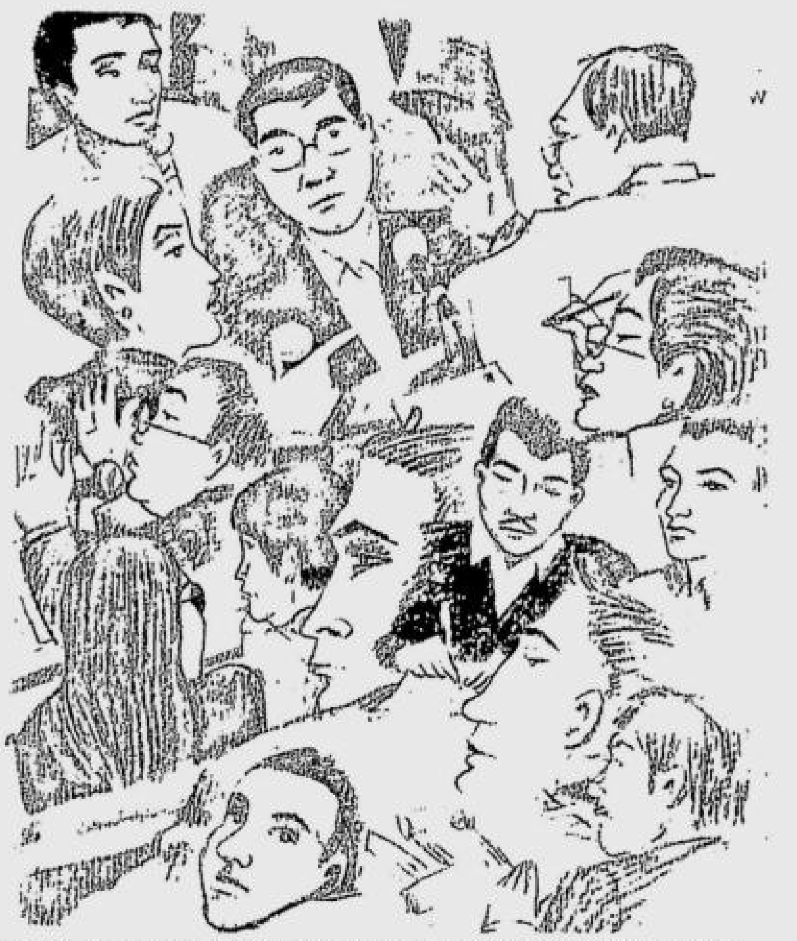
But before Supe could reply, public prosecutor Hazel Valdez objected to the word "consensual," saying the witness could give his expert opinion only on matters backed by evidence.

'If hands were sweaty'

Defense lawyer Enrico Uyehara (counsel for Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis) introduced another hypothesis: What if it's the woman herself who put the condom on her sex partner? Could this explain why her DNA was found on the condom?

"If her hands were sweaty, it could [explain that]. But remember that the DNA was found inside [the condom]," Supe replied.

Francisco Rodrigo (counsel for S/Sgt. Chad Carpentier) chose to sow doubt on the PNP's DNA testing process itself.



21ST WITNESS, Chief Insp. Francisco Supe returns to court to testify. Drawing is a composite of the major characters in the Subic rape case, Nicole (long hair with dark glasses) and the four accused. STEPH BRAVO

He first reminded Supe of previous testimony saying that the condom, for instance, remained "on the desk" of the evidence custodian of the Subic Freeport's Intelligence and Investigation Office (IIO) from Nov. 2 to 7, 2005.

The lawyer also recalled that the condom, after being retrieved, was wrapped in bond paper, briefly kept inside a pocket, and was stretched out for initial inspection by an IIO officer using a ballpen.

Rodrigo: "Is that proper?"

Supe: "Strictly speaking, that is not the proper way of handling it, sir."

Rodrigo further recounted how, at one point, the panties, the paper-wrapped condom, and Nicole's denim jeans were all put together in a brown paper bag by IIO handlers.

"It's possible," Supe said when Rodrigo asked if the items in the bag could have "contaminated each other."

But apparently in defense of the PNP findings, Supe maintained early on in the cross-examination that "there was no contamination" in Nicole's case.

Otherwise, he said, the tests would have produced "mixed profiles" of DNA.

PCR machine

During the cross-examination of forensic analyst Senior Insp. Edmar de la Torre, Rodrigo asked whether the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine, a "photocopier" of DNA extracted from a specimen, would also multiply the amount of contaminants in the specimen.

"Will you agree with me that the PCR has a sample size and degradation limitations [in that] if a sample was compromised, it would also affect the PCR?" Rodrigo asked De la Torre, who conducted DNA testing on the biological fluid found in Nicole's panties and the condom purportedly used by Smith.

"If the sample is contaminated, the contaminants do not increase, only human DNA, because our components are specific with [targeting] DNA," he said.

De la Torre was called to the stand to corroborate the testimony of Supe, his superior at the PNP Crime Laboratory.

Like Supe, he testified that Nicole's DNA was found on her panties and in the condom, and that male DNA was found on several spots in the panties, but not in the condom.

Samples taken from both pieces of evidence were replicated for analysis in the PCR machine.

'Will you agree?'

"Will you agree when I say it is probably easier to contaminate a PCR [machine] than to catch a common cold?" Rodrigo said.

"No," De la Torre said.

Rodrigo: "Will you agree with me that contamination will influence PCR results in the presence of improper handling?

De la Torre: "Yes."

The lawyer got the same reply when he asked whether the PCR had no capability of warding off contaminants.

During the court's inquiry later in the hearing, De la Torre said contamination of specimen prior to DNA testing could not be detected during PCR testing and would not affect analysis.

Rodrigo then proceeded to question the use of DNA in criminal investigation: "Have you come across a case of mistaken DNA exam that resulted in the conviction of an innocent man?"

De la Torre said he had not.

"Will you agree that DNA matches are not the end of the inquiry but rather the beginning of more investigative hard work?" the lawyer said.

De la Torre replied in the affirmative.

Rodrigo: "Will you agree with me that subsequent DNA typing [of a contaminated sample] could establish the presence of a defendant in a crime scene when in fact he was not?"

De la Torre: "Yes, that is possible."

Contamination-proof

Rodrigo took the witness back to the time IIO investigators retrieved and kept the evidence, including Nicole's panties and jeans and the condom found at Subic's Alava Pier, where the complainant was allegedly dumped by the accused.

"Suppose evidence 1 has no DNA and item 2 has DNA. If item 2 comes in close proximity or in contact with item 1, isn't it true that item 2 will then have DNA profile [from item 1]?" the lawyer said.

"If that's before it reaches the lab, that can happen," De la Torre said, adding that the entire DNA Analysis Section of the PNP Crime Laboratory was sterilized and therefore contamination-proof.

Rodrigo: "If [Nicole's] blue denims and panties were in the same bag, can that cause contamination of evidence?"

De la Torre: "That is possible."

Rodrigo: "Will coupon bond be a good container for a used condom? If it was then placed in a drawer, will that not cause contamination?"

De la Torre: "As we always say in our lectures, our principle is always to use paper. As long as the one who collected [the condom] had basic protection like gloves, paper will be good ... So long as the [drawer] is dry and away from sunlight, that's okay."

Judge Pozon canceled today's hearing after being informed that the prosecution's next witness, a toxicologist, would be unable to make it.

Blood samples from accussed

He also tentatively scheduled blood extraction from Smith, Duplantis, Carpentier and Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood in open court on Monday, in response to the prosecution's motion to compel the four accused Americans to provide their blood samples for DNA testing.

The defense lawyers filed their opposition to the motion yesterday.

Pozon is expected to rule on the motion before Monday's hearing.

Tip to teens . . .

From page A1

said a national survey in Britain showed that 14 percent of people aged between 16 and 34 used their personal music players for 28 hours a week.

More than a third of the 1,000 people questioned in the poll said they had ringing in the ear—a sign of damage to hearing—after listening to loud music.

"We are warning young people that they are putting themselves at risk of going deaf 30 years earlier than their parents' generation," said Vivienne Michael, chief executive of Deafness Research UK.

Young people are exposed to loud noise from MP3 players, sophisticated sound systems in homes, clubs and cars but many are unaware of the damaging effect it can have on hearing.

Nearly 40 percent of the people questioned in the poll said they did not know that listening to loud music on a personal music player or in clubs or cars could damage their hearing.

Twenty-eight percent said they went to noisy bars, pubs or nightclubs once a week.

"Hearing loss can make life unbearable. It cuts people off from their family and friends and makes everyday communication extremely difficult," Michael said in a statement.

60-60 rule

Deafness Research UK advises people to follow the 60-60 rule: Do not listen to your MP3 player at more than 60 percent of maximum volume and do not listen to it for more than 60 minutes at a time.

According to the charity, if the music from a headset is loud enough for the people around to hear, then it is loud enough to cause hearing damage.

Noise levels exceeding 105 decibels can damage hearing if endured for more than 15 minutes, according to Britain's Health and Safety Executive.

Normal conversation is about 60 decibels. Heavy traffic is about 85 decibels and loud personal music players are 112 decibels. *Reuters*

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Published in the International Journal of Molecular Medicine
ISSN 1107-3756 Volume17, Number 4, April 2006, Item 675

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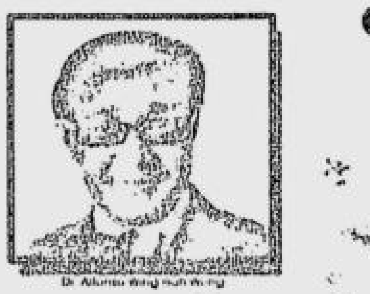

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of the Project: Lot I - Supply & Delivery of Three (3) Units Brand New Generator Sets
Lot II - Supply & Delivery of One (1) unit submersible pump and motor, motor controller and accessories
Location: Brgy. Irawan, Puerto Princesa City
Brief Description: Lot I
1 unit Brand New Generating Set: 50 KVA; four (4) cylinders, 220VAC power source output
1 unit Brand New Generating Set: 50 KVA; four (4) cylinders; 440 VAC power source output
1 unit Brand New Generating Set; 135 KVA; six (6) cylinders; 440 VAC power source output
Lot II
One (1) unit 20 HP submersible pump and motor, motor controller and accessories
Approved Budget For the Contract: Lot I - P 3,105,064.00, Lot II P 481,902.00
Delivery Period: Forty-five (45) Calendar Days from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Secretary, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 17, 2006 - August 4, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 25, 2006, 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	August 8, 2006, 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room
4. Opening of Bids	August 8, 2006, 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Lot 1 - 3,000.00, Lot II - P 500.00 to the Puerto Princesa City Water District Cashier.

The Puerto Princesa City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) MAGDALENA D. ESPIRITU
PPCWD BAC Chairman

(PDI—July 14 & 21, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. 8
Pawing Palo, Leyte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

REPAIR/RENOVATION OF NFA STAFFHOUSE AT PAWING PALO, LEYTE

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites contractors classified by and registered with valid Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) and Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP) with IAC (Inter Agency Committee) Registration - Small B for GB-1 (Building or Industrial Plant) to participate and to bid for the project specified below

PARTICULAR	LOCATION	BUDGET
Repair/Renovation of NFA Staffhouse	Pawing Palo, Leyte	P1,995,229.86

Schedule of Pre-bidding & Bidding		Date	Time
1	Issuance of Contractor's Eligibility form	July 17-21, 2006	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2	Deadline for submission of Accomplished Contractor's Eligibility forms & requirements	July 28, 2006	5:00 PM
3.	Issuance of Bid Documents & Plans	July 26 - Aug 1, 2006	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
4	Pre-bidding conference	August 03, 2006	9:00 AM
5	Submission & Opening of bids	August 15, 2006	9:00 AM

Venue for the Pre-bidding conference, submission and opening of bids shall be at the NFA Regional Conference Room, Regional Office VIII Pawing Palo, Leyte

Eligibility forms may be secured and submitted at the NFA RBAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable application fee of P500.00

Bidding documents, technical specification and plans shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P4,000.00

All particulars relative to eligibility requirements, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and other applicable rules and regulations

NFA reserves the right to accept or to reject any bids thereof, waive any informalities found therein or to accept such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the NFA and/or the government

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Assistant Regional Manager II
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 15 & 21, 2006)

Defensor: GMA backing no kiss of death for '07 bets

BEING CLOSELY identified with a supposedly unpopular President may be poison for any candidate wanting to run in the 2007 elections, but Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor is confident that the public will base its choice on the candidates' strengths rather than their affiliations.

Defensor, who has privately expressed his own plans to run for the Senate next year, said the administration candidates from senator to congressmen to governors and mayors in the 2004 polls performed strongly despite the low popularity ratings of the President.

"The people did not look at the candidates as pro-Gloria or pro-Erap, they look at the candidates individually and choose those whom they believe would represent their sentiments most effectively," Defensor told an ABS-CBN morning television show.

Defensor was reacting to Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano's assertion that the 2007 elections would be a proxy vote for or against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Cayetano harked back to the 1984 elections in Metro Manila when the opposition made a clean sweep of all the elective positions at stake because the electorate turned the voting into a referendum on the authoritarian rule of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Cayetano disputed Defensor's claim that being associated with the President would not be a drawback, as in the 2004 elections.

Defensor insisted that being linked to the President had its benefits. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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'Queer Eye' says GMA, Imelda need no makeover

From page A1

the "grooming guru" of the TV reality show, as he examined Ms Arroyo's portrait that hangs in the Presidential Lounge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Centennial Terminal.

Collectively known as the Fab Five, Douglas, Carson Kressley, Thom Filicia, Jai Rodriguez and Ted Allen flew in early yesterday morning for a three-day visit.

Armed with wit and intelligence, they have been making waves with their global hit TV show that is dedicated to transforming "drab guys" into "fab guys" all over America.

While Douglas is in charge of grooming, Kressley is known as the "fashion savant," Filicia the "design doctor," Allen the "food and wine connoisseur," and Rodriguez the "culture vulture."

'Oh, yes, she is'

Fresh impeachment complaints and accusations of corruption and electoral fraud notwithstanding, Ms Arroyo's physical attributes and style appeared to have impressed these authorities of beauty and fashion.

Douglas drew Kressley's attention to the President's smiling portrait, which the airport authority had gotten from Malacañang, and said: "Carson, look! This is their President. She's beautiful, isn't she?"

Kressley sauntered over. "Oh, yes, she is!" he said.

According to Douglas, the 59-year-old President has "the essential" for every woman—a pair of pearl earrings.

"I love her pearl earrings," he said, pointing at her left ear in the portrait.

Came a wicked question from reporters: Does she need a makeover?

Douglas' response: She certainly does not.

But naughtily, Douglas and Kressley noted that the color of Ms Arroyo's suit matched the color of the foliage perched beside the portrait.

(The petite President, who usually wears pantsuits and really high heels, gets fashion tips from model Joanne Zapanta-Andrada. Her personal hairdresser is Gener Miranda.)

'Lovely' Imelda

Douglas disclosed that he and Filicia met and had lunch with the widow of the strongman Ferdinand Marcos last year in Manila.

"We were fortunate enough to have a beautiful lunch with Imelda Marcos, and we had a great time," he said.

Douglas described the former first lady, a beauty queen in her youth, as "a lovely woman, highly intelligent, [with an] incredible perspective, and an immaculate, incredible sense of style."

Flashing his trademark gorgeous smile, he said: "We're excited to see what trouble we'll get into this time. You'll never know. It's like when you come to the Philippines, who knows what's going to happen?"

Douglas and Filicia made over two girls and a guy during that brief visit last year.

But yesterday at the airport, the Fab Five had not been inside the Presidential Lounge for more than an hour when the usually ignored things in the 180-square-meter room used mainly by heads of state, government officials and other dignitaries caught their trained eye.

Rodriguez constantly took pictures with his manual camera.

Filicia, one of House Beautiful's Top 100 American designers, admired the wooden carvings mounted on a wall partition.

"I love them. I think they're beautiful," he told the INQUIRER as he examined the carvings made in Paete, Laguna, depicting highlights in Philippine history.

"The details and the craftsmanship are amazing. I think it's a very cool and interesting and modern way to tell the story of the Philippines," Filicia added.

Kressley's clothes

Douglas et al. engaged in an easy discussion of such subjects as Filipino fashion, gayspeak, high credit card limits and George Clooney at the press conference held later in the day at the Makati Shangri-La hotel.

They had the crowd laughing the minute they entered the Rizal Ballroom, as they dished out comments on stuff like the chandelier and Kressley's clothes in particular.

"I haven't sat down in these clothes before," Kressley said, referring to his zebra-print shirt and tight-fitting, cream-colored slacks.

The Fab Five recently finished filming their 100th episode—a milestone for "Queer Eye." (The series is shown exclusively on ETC every Monday at 9 p.m.)

The show is about five fashion-conscious gay men taking on a clueless straight guy—recommended for makeover usually by a girlfriend or a family member—to teach him some style.

The straight guy's clothes, demeanor, furniture and cooking skills (or lack thereof) are all targets.

The hosts introduce him to the delights of facials, tanning salons, gourmet food and fashion labels, at the same time giving his home a makeover.

Dressed to the nines

Douglas, the first-ever L'Oreal male spokesperson, reminisced about his visit to the Philippines last year with Filicia and said he was glad to come back with the rest of the Fab Five.

"Everyone here is so warm and friendly. I told Carson that I was impressed that everyone, male [or] female, is dressed to the nines, and everyone has an incredible fashion sense," he said.

Douglas and company are here on the invitation of the Ayala Malls in partnership with Bench, to share "lifestyle-enhancing tips" on grooming, fashion, culture, food and the home with their Filipino fans.

According to their manager, Michael Flutie, the Fab Five would have come for a visit even without an invitation.

"Kyan and Thom have said such good things about the Philippines to the others, so it would have been on their vacation list," Flutie said.

Kressley, who is hosting the Miss Universe 2006 pageant, said doing makeovers made him feel good. "In the show, we do the makeover and bring out the best in the person ... It's about making someone feel good and look good," he said.

Each member of the group is involved in projects other than the show. For examples, Filicia recently completed the interior design of Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony's house in New York, and Rodriguez is in the cast of "The Producers," which stars Uma Thurman and Matthew Broderick.

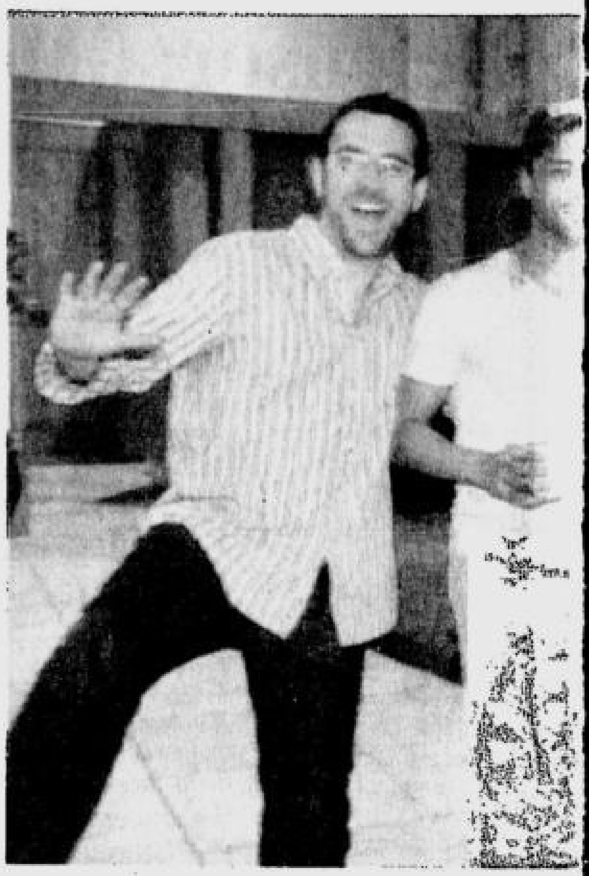
'If you want more...'

The Fab Five said they would want to visit some of the Philippine islands if they had the time, and dispelled rumors that they had wrapped up their last episode.

"We are definitely coming back," said Kressley. "If you want more, we'd be happy to give you more."

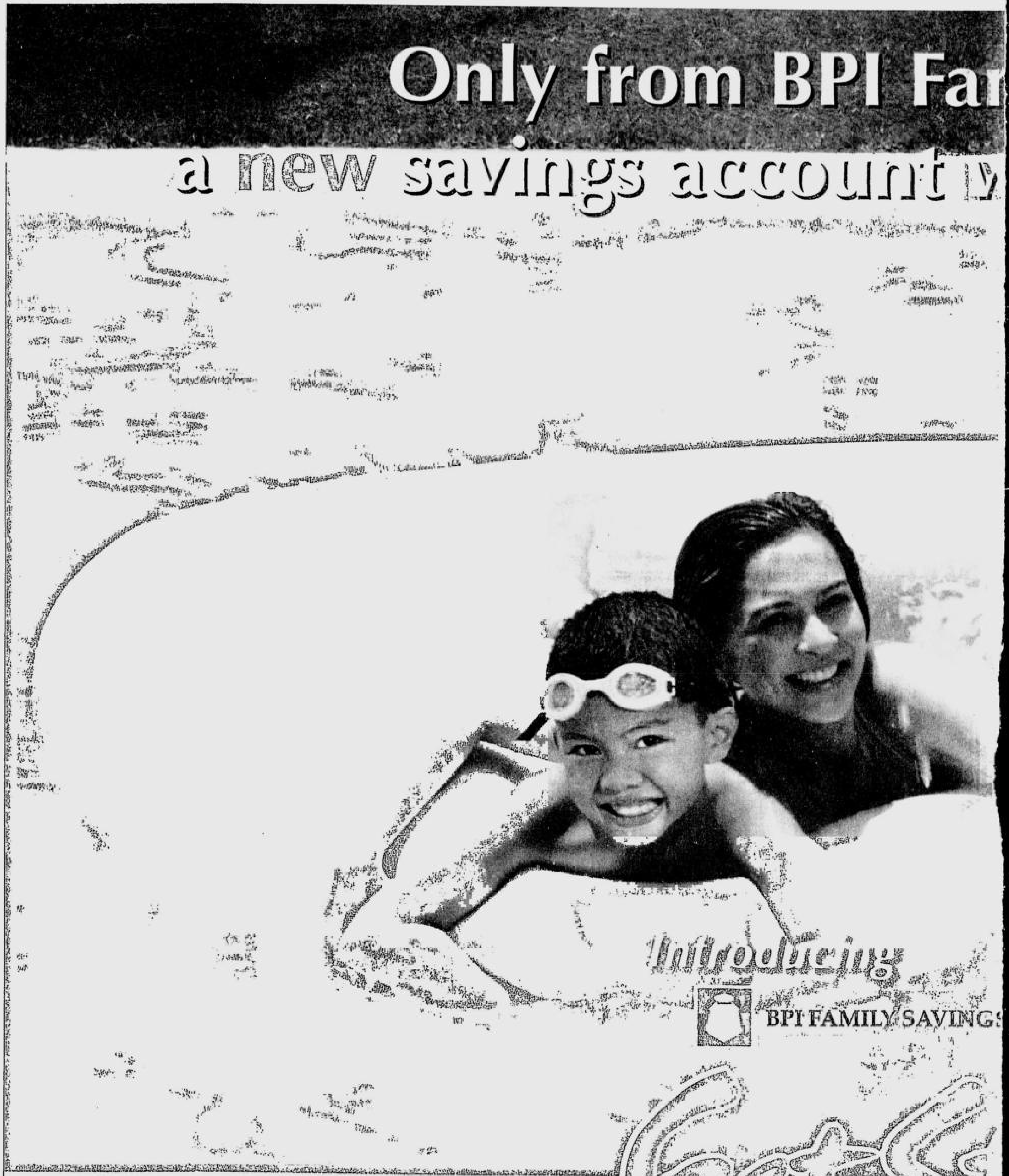
The Fab Five were to visit Greenbelt 3 Park last night.

They are scheduled to be at the Glorietta Activity Center today at 4 p.m. and at the Alabang Town Center tomorrow at 10 a.m.



GIVING THEM THE EYE: Sorry, ladies, but the five heartbreakers, billed as the "Fab Five" are taken by straight guys clueless on style and need makeovers. From left, Jai Rodriguez, Kyan Douglas, Thom Filicia and Carson Kressley. They are here on a three-day mall tour to promote their Emmy-nominated reality TV show now on its 100th episode aired here on ETC Mondays at 9:00PM.

JESS YUSON



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Let the country be my judge, says Bishop Tobias

From page A1

Regional Trial Court on Jan. 17 in connection with the failed Oakwood mutiny in 2003.

San Juan was captured a month after the escape, while Rabonza, Sarmiento and Bumidang, together with three other soldiers and two civilians were arrested in a Quezon City subdivision on July 7.

Christian charity

"Sanctuary is sacrosanct—it is beyond the laws of man," Tobias said. "We do not give (soldiers) aid and comfort to break man's law. We give them sanctuary to give them the respect they are due as children of God and the moral bearings to guide them in their actions."

"If, in (the government's view), I did something punishable by law, I'm willing to answer for my 'misdeeds,'" he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said he doubted that the bishop could be charged criminally since the soldiers were still presumed innocent with the rebellion charge against them still pending in court.

"The presumption of innocence stays until they are convicted," Pimentel said.

"Even if Bishop Tobias gave temporary refuge ... , he committed no crime. He was guilty only of Christian charity and that is no crime," he said.

Tobias said he even did "something good for the country" by providing the soldiers food and shelter.

While denying that San Juan and company were plotting a coup against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Tobias described the young soldiers' attitude at that time as "*mapusok*" (impulsive).

"I think somehow, we were able to ease the situation," the prelate said, noting that it had always been the Church's goal to resolve conflicts through dialogue and never with the force of arms.

"I gave them a listening," Tobias said, adding that the soldiers complained mostly about their commander in chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo. "They were just stating facts."

On July 14, San Juan renounced his links with the rebellious Magdalo group, which, according to military authorities, was involved in a Right-Left plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Tobias said he didn't feel betrayed by San Juan's action, even if he opened the doors of his residence to the embattled soldier for three to five days on at least three occasions.

Soldier's ideals

Asked what he would tell San Juan in case they meet again, Tobias replied: "I understand your change. But I hope it is a temporary change and that you'll go back to your old ideals as a soldier."

Tobias said he had no regrets helping San Juan even if it seemed that the soldier had turned against him.

"As pastors, we believe as a dogma of the Christian faith, that (those) who seek sanctuary from perceived persecution must be given it without question," he said in a statement. "Our role is to enlighten and assist in the quieting and eventual redemption of peoples."

The bishop said he had kept quiet about the help he had extended to the soldiers, citing the requirements of his priestly vocation.

Except for some members of his group, the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya, no one—not even his family or superiors in the Catholic Church—knew about the sanctuary he had provided, Tobias said.

"It's better that they (soldiers) betray me than I betray them," he said.

Tobias' problem seemed to extend beyond the refuge he had given to the rebel soldiers.

Two former "jueteng" witnesses earlier claimed that he and five other Church leaders—Archbishops Angel Lagdameo and Oscar Cruz, and Bishops Julio Xavier Labayen, Teodoro Bacani and Deogracias Iñiguez—were involved in a plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

Gov't scapegoat?

Like Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Tobias asked that the allegation be proven.

"You must always have some scapegoat, right?" he said, alluding to the government. "But if you use your reason, that allegation must be proven, not just stated."

Pimentel said the Church's historical tradition of providing sanctuary to those who are being persecuted or oppressed "distinguishes the bishops from ordinary citizens."

He said Tobias' act had "some parallelisms" with the act of Archbishop Roger Cardinal Mahoney of Los Angeles, California, in giving sanctuary to illegal Hispanic immigrants who were being hunted down by US immigration authorities for deportation.

"(However), it will be an entirely different matter if a bishop or priest is actively involved in the plot to overthrow the government," Pimentel said.

He said it was the duty of law enforcers to track down and arrest fugitives from the law.

"But if they fail to find the fugitives, that is not the fault of the bishop who gave them sanctuary," Pimentel said.

Due process

While it is the task of the Department of Justice to investigate Tobias, it should "observe due process" for all the accused in the foiled Feb. 24 coup plot, several congressmen said yesterday.

"Raul Gonzalez must show there is enough evidence to warrant the filing of any charges," said Rep. Exequiel Javier of Antique.

Rep. Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar aired the same warning but also urged Catholic bishops not to tolerate colleagues who had taken sides in the lingering political crisis.

Javier, vice chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said the "state was duty-bound to punish" those involved in the coup plot and put a stop to military adventurism and illegal attempts to grab power.

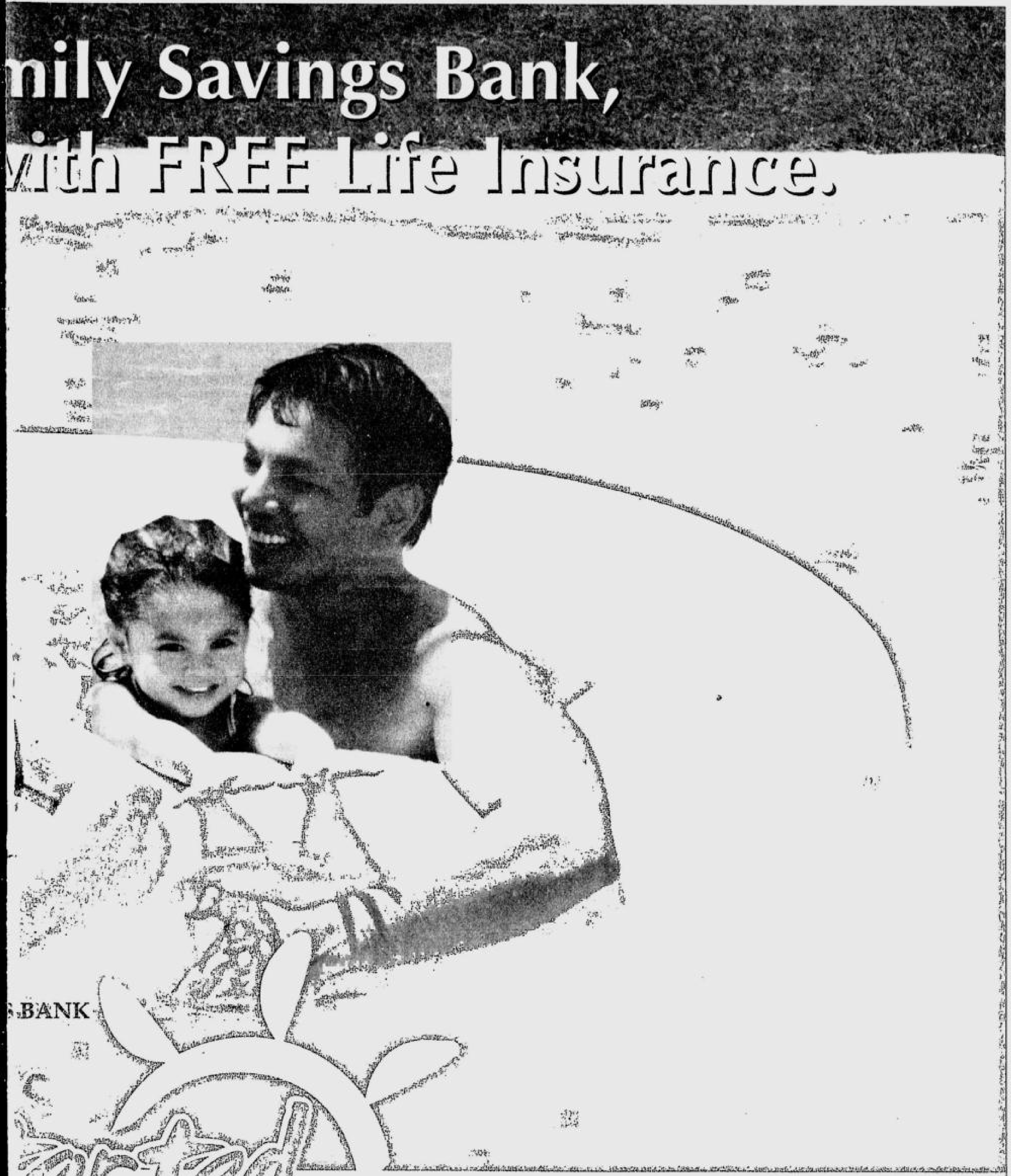
But in ensuring the stability of the state and to "safeguard Philippine democracy now and in the future," the executive department should not be accused of having summarily clamped down on its critics, he said.

Get evidence first

"That's why the DOJ has to gather enough evidence against the suspects before filing charges against them. We also want to assure the public that the House (of Representatives) will help ensure that the rights of any accused will be respected," said Javier.

Rep. Roilo Golez of Parañaque, for his part, pointed out that the Arroyo administration was in a "political and legal quicksand" in its affairs with the bishops.

"If the government pushes too hard, they could end up with a modern Gomburza in their hands and sink deeper into the quicksand. On the other hand, if government doesn't act, Malacañang would be perceived to have blinked in the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation. The government would then remain stuck in the quicksand," said Golez. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Michael Lim Ubac and PDI Research*



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OPINION

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A joke

EDITORIAL

THE AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA, MAINLY THROUGH an Associated Press report, have picked up the Jocelyn Bolante story. Details are sparse, indicating how much remains to be known about what exactly is going on in Los Angeles. The reports take note of the arrest warrant issued by the Philippine Senate, but hold back from suggesting that the warrant triggered Bolante's detention. American officials simply state that Bolante arrived in Los Angeles from Hong Kong without a valid US visa, his visitor's visa having been "revoked by the US Department of State." Upon his arrival, Bolante was taken into federal custody. That was on July 7. Since then, he has been detained at the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Processing Center in San Pedro, California.

Yesterday, Bolante was summoned to appear before a federal court, although no hearing was scheduled. He also hasn't been formally charged with anything. And that's as far as American official and press commentary go.

Efforts by Philippine media to check court and other records (which would be of a public nature) to see if Bolante has been charged with anything have turned up no results. Politicians on both sides of the partisan divide have been falling over themselves trying to make quoteworthy comments. Absent any further announcement from US authorities, whether in their embassy in Manila, in Los Angeles or Washington, D.C., the whole affair continues to be shrouded in mystery. And anything anyone says must be considered speculation.

Quite clearly, the country is wondering why the State Department canceled Bolante's visa—and in a manner that might even suggest it was done in mid-flight, since a prior cancellation should have been caught at the Hong Kong airport when he boarded his flight. Among other things, tens of thousands of Filipinos holding US visas have to be wondering whether the cancellation was done on a whim, as a means of entrapment, or if Bolante had been informed his visa was void.

And what on earth Bolante's in trouble for with the Americans is on everyone's mind. As is what he will do, now that he's a guest in a federal detention center. All we know are rumors the he is seeking political asylum.

Our government, however, has kept remarkably mum on Bolante's woes. And when it hasn't been strangely silent, its statements have boggled belief. An American official said that the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles was informed by fax and a phone call that Bolante was in American custody. Our government didn't inform the public of Bolante's detention until July 12, or five days after he was detained. In Manila, the Department of Foreign Affairs said that was because they only learned about it on July 10. Which leads to two questions: If this is true, why did the Philippine Consulate take three days to tell Manila? And then why did it take the DFA in Manila another two days to tell the country?

DFA spokesman, Gilbert Asuque, rather lamely reasoned that Bolante's detention took place on a Friday (Saturday in Manila), and that there's no work on weekends. Asuque's statement is what Winston Churchill would have called a "terminological inexactitude" and what everyone else calls a lie. In every Philippine mission—as well as the DFA in Manila—there is always someone on duty, at all hours of the day, every day, precisely to receive and, if necessary, transmit information. And the Americans have said the information about Bolante's detention was indeed transmitted by them to our consulate.

So much for a culture of efficiency and service in our diplomatic missions. Either the Bolante experience is typical of what any Filipino suddenly detained by a foreign government can expect from our bumbling foreign service, or the DFA has been deliberately dragging its feet and had officials spout untruths to buy either Bolante or other people interested in his case time.

This looks very much like a cover-up, the same kind of bureaucratic beating-around-the-bush the country got when former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano vanished off the face of the earth.

The Philippine government definitely knows something about why the former agriculture undersecretary is in US custody. Its slowness and unwillingness to share information suggest it doesn't like what it knows. And the public doesn't like not knowing whatever it is our government knows. Our foreign service is a joke.

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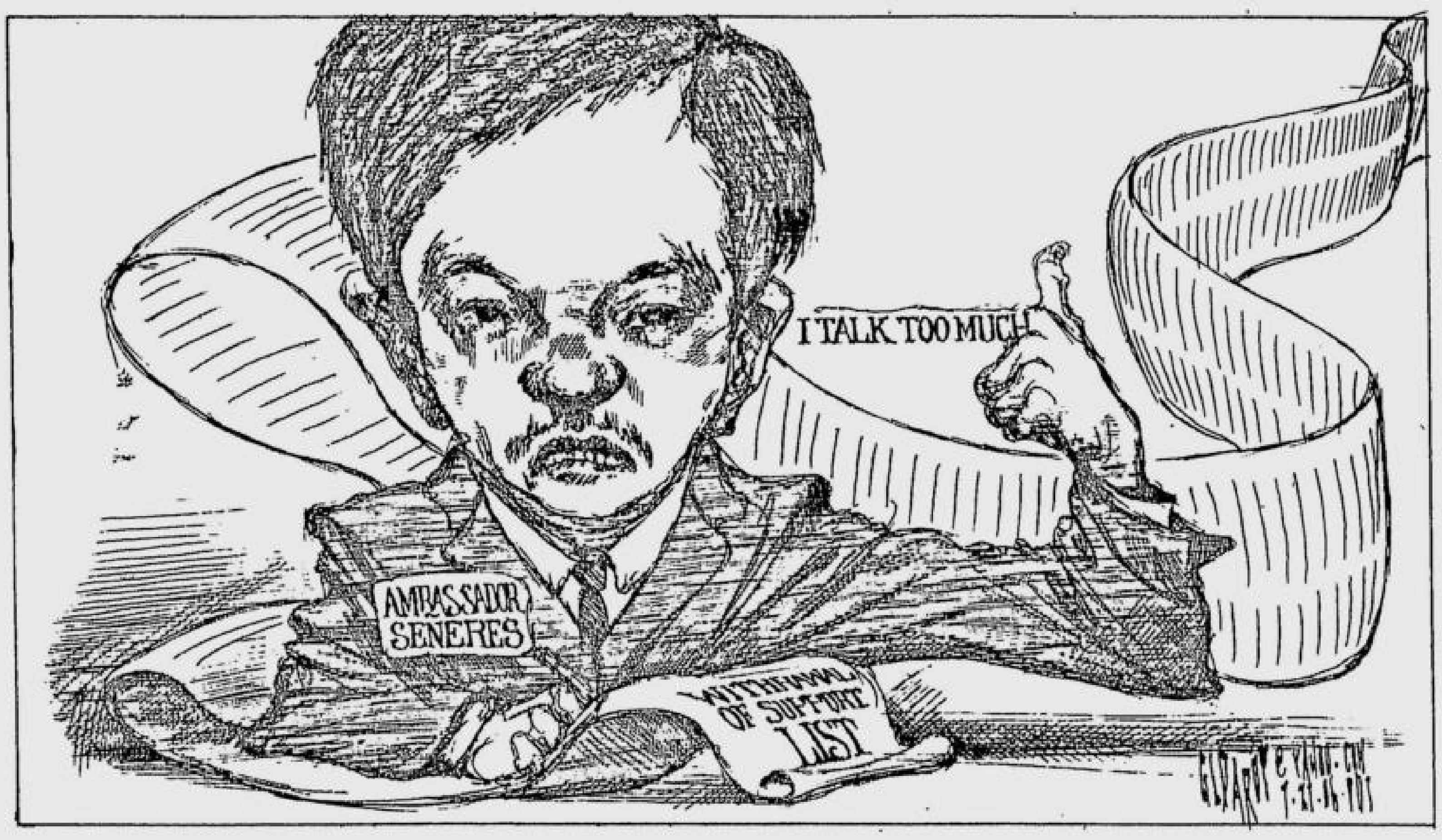


Is Comelec under Ombudsman's jurisdiction?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THE LAW IS IMMUTABLE and that justice is for all. Like soft clay in the hands of a sculptor, the law is what the interpreter of the law wants to make of it. The law is not what its maker intended it to be; it is what a judge or a court says it is. And members of courts, including the highest court of the land, sometimes have different interpretations of the same law. No wonder it is so difficult to get justice in our courts of law. Lawyers, who spend their lifetime studying the law, cannot agree on what laws mean. Now if legal experts can't agree on the meaning of a particular law, how can we expect the ordinary citizen to understand and obey it?

The above comes to mind because of the controversy over the Commission on Elections and its contract with the Mega Pacific consortium. The Supreme Court has ordered the Ombudsman to file charges against Comelec officials and stockholders of Mega Pacific, and set a deadline for it. The Ombudsman, in order to beat the deadline, hastily filed charges against Commissioner Resurreccion Borra and the members of the bids and award committee (BAC). Then it called for a hearing, but the election commissioners refused to attend. They are not under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman, they said.

The Constitution is clear: The Comelec is a constitutional body and its members can be removed only by impeachment. Therefore, it cannot be under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.

What about criminal liability? They become liable after they are impeached, according to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who was a panelist at the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) last Monday.

"We are not snubbing the Ombudsman," Abalos said. "We just want to obey the law. The place to go is the House of Representatives, to impeach us, not the Ombudsman."

But it was the Supreme Court that had ordered the Ombudsman to file the charges, I said.

"I think the Court erred," replied Abalos, a former judge. "The Court made a decision without facts. The Court is not a trier of facts, and it made a decision based on conjecture. No trial court has heard all the facts. So how did the Supreme Court arrive at its conclusion?"

Moreover, Abalos continued, "the Ombudsman did not gather facts either. It just said in its complaint that it 'culled the facts from the Supreme Court decision.' What facts? The Supreme Court had no facts."

The Court said Mega Pacific is an "11-day-old" corporation that bagged a billion-peso contract, I said.

True, but that information came from Mega Pacific itself. It was not keeping it a secret, Abalos replied, because it was just the company that packaged the whole thing from among several other companies with long, reputable track records in the industry. Mega Pacific was only the umbrella of the group.

The Court said the rating of the machine was downgraded from 9.999 to 9.995 percent, I said.

"Yes, but that difference means, in real terms, only one error in every 20,000 ballots," said Abalos. That would hardly make a difference in the results. Many municipalities have less than 20,000 voters. Besides, the Department of Science and Technology had certified the machines' efficiency.

But the most dangerous part of the Supreme Court order, Abalos added, is including mere shareholders of Mega Pacific among the persons to be charged. Liability is not limited to the officers and board members of Mega Pacific but includes all stockholders. That's like including all Meralco customers and PLDT subscribers, who are all stockholders of these corporations, criminally liable for the sins of their officers.

Besides, Abalos continued, Mega Pacific has fulfilled its part of the bargain. It has delivered all the machines contracted for and they're all in good order. What is their liability?

Aren't the machines overpriced?

They are even underpriced, Abalos countered. Its bid was lower than the floor price fixed by the Comelec. Its bid for the whole country was even lower than the cost of counting machines for only two regions bought by the previous Comelec. There is no bidder complaining of any "onerous award." In fact, the complaining group, that of Namfrel's Joe Concepcion, was not a bidder at all.

The Court has ordered the Comelec to return the machines and Mega Pacific to refund the money paid to it.

Can you blame Mega Pacific if it does not return the money? Abalos asked. It has delivered the goods as promised. It has not violated any terms of the contract. It has invested so much money in the machines. As far as it is concerned, it has not done anything wrong.

Can the machines be used in next year's election?

Yes, they are in good working condition, kept in air-conditioned rooms.

How this controversy will turn out will be interesting to watch. Can our legal experts untangle the contradictions in their interpretations of the law to make them logical and enforceable?

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Four surgeons were discussing their work.

Surgeon No. 1: I think accountants are the easiest to operate on. Everything inside them is numbered.

Surgeon No. 2: Librarians are the easiest. When you open them up, their organs are arranged alphabetically.

Surgeon No. 3: I prefer to operate on electricians. Their organs are all color-coded.

Surgeon No. 4: You are all wrong. Politicians are the easiest. They're heartless, spineless, gutless and their heads and asses are interchangeable.

The nursing boards and the larger mess

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

IT IS NOTHING NEW FOR US TO HEAR about another scandal, another leakage, in a government licensing examination. There are persistent causes for the obsession to pass—if not "top"—exams by the proverbial hook or crook. What is new is the setting: the OFW-funded surge in enrollment in higher education, and the overseas placement-driven demand for new, board-certified graduates. It is this setting that makes board exam safeguards even more urgent, and the place of good university-level schools even more strategic.

The eternal, ever-present reasons are in a way so typically, wonderfully Pinoy. We all love diplomas. We hang them on walls, together with, for the older folk, framed graduation photos in cap and gown. Next, we love those board exams. Abroad, people see them as licensing exams that attest merely that the candidate has the minimum competence, nothing less, but also nothing more. Hereabouts, we think they prove that the candidate is a genius (step aside, Einstein), all of a sudden licensed to talk in strange technical jargon meant to impress rather than enlighten.

On the loftier, more romantic side, for the Pinoy Everyman, degrees and board exams are the dramatic escape from one's assigned place in life; they are his entrée into the finer classes. Believe it or not, the feudal attitude that each of us is born into a fixed station and immutable status—something that most of the world began to chuck after the French Revolution—still lingers deep in the chest of the Pinoy.

Commencement day and the oath-taking are tangible moments of release from that ordained pecking order. By token of parchment paper and ceremony, one's social and market worth is suddenly upgraded and, we proudly sermon the kids, that is an achievement that no one can take away from you (by which we imply that everything else that came before was given by others who, therefore, can also take them back).

Board and bar exams are even more special. They are "blind-graded" exams, where the "teacher" doesn't know if the paper he is checking belongs to the daughter of Doña Buding or the son of Buding's *labandera*. They stand on equal footing before the grader, and to be treated equally is, again, believe it or not, a rarity in Pinoy life. Everywhere else, he is judged by his clothes, his titles, his pedigree, his accent. Before the government boards, he competes solely on his own talent and strength. Board and bar exams therefore embody the meritocratic ideal, the pride in besting others in a fair and equal contest, the democratic romance about the level playing field.

That is why the scandal in the nursing board exams riles us so. Whoever leaked out those handwritten notes shortchanged all those honest students who took the exam on their own. Yet, unless the actual culprits and individual cheaters are found, the only proper course of action is to set aside the results of the tainted examination altogether. Its integrity has been breached, its results are not reliable. To compel the honest to re-take an exam they have already passed—that makes them the innocent victims of other peoples' greed and cunning. That is sad, but that is a legitimate price to exact. To allow the cheaters to be board-certified and to profit from their crime—that leaves the public unprotected from the incompetent and rewards the dishonest with honors undeserved.

The nursing board's decision to release the results prematurely, while the investigation is on-going, is a vintage move to silence the critics. Politically, it creates a solid constituency—all those who passed—who will lobby that exam results be maintained. (I doubt if those who flunked will conversely have the incentive to either impugn the exam or testify on the leak. Even if they are thus "incentivized," certainly they wouldn't have as much credibility as those who passed.)

Legally, the nursing board announcement may have (perhaps on purpose) "vested" certain rights in every person on the list of passers, unless the board had expressly made reservations when they issued that list. Either way, the board's undue haste raises even more questions.

We are wasting away a golden opportunity by allowing nursing education to succumb to the enticements of the market, when in fact the market can be harnessed to benefit nursing education.

Who could have imagined the blossoming of private universities fueled by OFW money? The Filipino family, long smitten by fancy diplomas, all of a sudden has disposable income. And guess where he chooses to spend it first? The most noble, most natural path is the road to a school for his children, and he thus invests in a dream that will outlive him. We must make the most of this sudden surge in enrollment.

But nursing schools are even more uniquely situated. Like the rest of the colleges, they have applicants knocking at their gates. But even better, they have interested employers visiting the dean's office.

The papers have lamented the loose accreditation of nursing schools and the Commission on Higher Education's feeble enforcement of academic standards to accommodate powerful lobbies. The nursing board leakage is just the latest scandal that undermines public trust in the nurses produced by Philippine schools. The Filipino public may be forgiving and cheap, but the foreign public is exacting and demanding. The nursing school bonanza thrives because of the foreign public. To lose its trust just so shortsighted entrepreneurs can make a killing is to kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Why not abolish Sona?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

BY MONDAY, WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address, she would be entering the second half of her elected term. The first half has been paralyzed and petrified by the political crisis over her government's legitimacy. During that period, all the approaches that were tried to break the impasse failed. The standoff has left the nation demoralized and weary.

As the country stands on the crossroads of a government's mid-term, there is keen anticipation of what fresh initiatives the administration and the opposition can offer as an exit from the impasse. Have they all run out of ideas beyond the sterile formulations and approaches of the past three years?

In last year's Sona, the President proposed constitutional change as the formula to break the impasse as well as for national renewal. That centerpiece of the 2005 initiative didn't catch fire. Surely, she can't offer stale fish again. Doing so would reflect not only the state of the nation but more so the state of bankruptcy of the President's mind which, ideally, ought to be the fountainhead of innovations.

The legitimacy crisis that broke out over the infamous Garcillano tapes in June 2005 has left every citizen, and every sector of political life of the nation—including the opposition, the political parties, the military, the Catholic Church, the NGOs and civil society—with addled minds. Within a year, all possible tricks to bring about leadership change available in the political system were tried, ranging from incessant military coup plots, Cabinet resignations, street protests demanding the President's resignation, impeachment, people's initiative for constitutional change to bishops' pastoral letters. Nothing had been left untried, except revolution. But Filipinos don't like that; it's too bloody and messy. What our people want is change without pain much less blood. That's why they are enamored of people power, circa 1986 and 2001.

That's why, I don't have high expectations that on Monday, either the administration, the opposition or the activist sectors of civil society will come forward with a new menu beyond last night's left-overs or fresh proposals that would electrify the nation. This tempts me to propose that in order to ward off wide public cynicism over the dysfunction of the political system and avoid raising false expectations, the President should do away with the Sona.

Certainly, we need a roadmap of our destination for the next year or the next three years. The Sona is supposed to provide that map and kilometer posts. But the roadmaps set out by previous Sonas have led to dead ends.

There are unmistakable signposts ahead. Next year, as clear as the sun will rise and set, there will be mid-term elections. Traditionally, under our American-style presidential system, that election is the best opportunity for the citizens to express their vote of confidence in a government they elected, regardless of whether or not it cheated in the 2004 elections. They will express their mandate on the representatives they will elect to Congress. In 2007, we shall know whether the Lakas coalition will hold its majority in the House and whether the balance of power will change in the Senate. With the results, we would know whether a change of balance in Congress would allow an impeachment case to prosper.

I will not encourage anyone to expect that the 2007 elections would either close the legitimacy issue over the tapes or lead us to the truth of whether Ms Arroyo cheated in 2004. That's too much to expect. All that the elections can do is give the sovereign people their due to express their vote of confidence in the government.

When the people vote, they will not be unaware of the Garci tapes and all the accusations made against Ms Arroyo in the impeachment complaints and the way her allies in the House of Representatives killed the complaint. All this will be in their minds when they vote.

The results, if honest, would not wipe out the doubts cast by the tapes, but a fresh vote of confidence will make clear a few things, especially the real public opinion on Ms Arroyo's low approval ratings in the opinion polls.

My proposal is straight-forward and uncluttered. Simply stated, let's go ahead with the 2007 mid-term elections, undisguised, without entangling them in schemes involving constitutional change. If the results are honest, then let's talk of other things such as legitimacy, economic plans and reforms, impeachment, constitutional change, etc. First things first, and one issue at a time. Filipinos understand this.

The bishops, in two pastoral statements in July 2005 and July 2006, got their priorities right when they stressed electoral reforms in the Commission on Elections and the sweeping revamp of the Comelec. Honest elections are the strongest foundation of political legitimacy. Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Christian Monsod have argued for the 2007 elections as a route to bypass the issue of the Garcillano tapes.

For elections to serve their fundamental function in our democracy, certain preconditions must be met. First, all the election commissioners have to go, including its chair. This is essential to establish confidence in and the legitimacy of the Comelec and the electoral system. Second, the administration should never tamper with or interfere in any way (such as it did in 2004 in the tapes case) in the 2007 elections. Without these reforms, the 2007 elections are doomed to fail. Another election failure will mean the collapse of electoral democracy in this country.

My proposal is modest, unambitious and achievable. If we can't have honest elections next year, let's forget about democracy. Everything else becomes irrelevant.

'No peace at the end of this'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IMAGINE IF, AFTER THE ABU SAYYAF INVADED a diving resort in Malaysia and kidnapped a number of tourists and Malaysian resort employees, the Malaysian government decided to retaliate by bombing Metro Manila and killing hundreds of civilians.

This, in essence, is what the Israeli government has done in the wake of the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers at the Israel-Lebanon border. Though Hezbollah, a guerrilla group, has accepted responsibility for the kidnapping, saying they had carried it out to bargain for the release of Palestinians and Lebanese in Israeli jails, Israel decided to retaliate against all Lebanese, destabilizing the fragile peace in the country and the central government. Bombs have landed not just on suspected Hezbollah lairs but even in the capital Beirut, killing 300 Lebanese civilians, one-third of them children.

Lebanon, said a BBC reporter, is being "torn to shreds," with the humanitarian situation, according to the UN, "worsening by the hour."

Israeli authorities are unapologetic about the scale and targets of their retaliation. A spokesman even justified the bombing of civilian infrastructure in Lebanon as his government's attempt to hobble the Hezbollah's ability to move across the country. This struck me as odd, since the guerrillas are mostly concentrated in southern Lebanon anyway, and the bombing of Beirut is largely pointless, except perhaps to score propaganda points.

* * *

THE RAPID and disproportional escalation of the conflict brought to mind the movie "Munich," released last year and produced and directed by Steven Spielberg, which sent a strong message precisely on the Israeli policy of "swift and full retribution" for every attack and provocation. In many ways, as its Arab neighbors have been saying, Israel has been a destabilizing presence in the Middle East, but its policy of wreaking vengeance for every incident it deems a threat to its security scales up the possibilities for conflict and a never-ending cycle of retribution.

"Munich" is based on the memoirs of an Israeli agent who was assigned in 1972 to go after the people believed to be behind the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes and officials participating in the Munich Olympics. With his team, "Avner" cris-crosses Europe hunting down the men named in a list provided by Israeli intelligence. But as the assassinations proceed, Avner begins to doubt not just the linkages between the men on the list and the terrorists, but also the wisdom of the policy behind his assignment. As they go after the PLO leaders and their allies, Israel's enemies scale up their own responses, embarking on plane hijackings, airport bombings and their own assassinations. A tooth for a tooth, indeed.

Avner gradually realizes that he and his team have turned into the very same people they were assigned to hunt down. And as he attempts to leave the secret service and join his family in civilian life, Avner finds that not even his own government will grant him leave to live in peace.

"There is no peace at the end of this," someone says toward the movie's end. It might well be a comment on the current conflict between Israel and Lebanon.

* * *

FOR Filipinos, interest in the "Middle East situation" centers mainly on the fate of the thousands of overseas workers trapped in Lebanon, many of them domestic workers abandoned by their employers.

Other governments have marshaled buses, planes and ships to move their nationals out of Lebanon and to staging areas where they could finally be sent home. The Philippine government, however, for lack of funds, has resorted to sending out a flurry of letters to different governments begging them to give Filipinos free rides on transports out of Lebanon.

The "lack of funds" excuse is puzzling, since the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) boasts of billions in contingency funds drawn from the wages of overseas workers themselves. Why can't this money be used to airlift or move out the Filipinos in Lebanon? And why can't the national government release funds from the national treasury, if need be, to protect Filipino lives?

The government's actions so far—calling on Filipinos to gather at a Catholic parish in Beirut and dispatching Ambassador Roy Cimatu to organize the evacuation effort—seem puny and embarrassing compared to how other governments have scrambled to get their people out of harm's way. Indeed, it seems that in the wake of a major international crisis, the best our officials can do is wring their hands and appeal for help from other countries.

* * *

EVEN more pathetic is the foreign policy declaration made by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in the face of the hostilities in Lebanon. "I don't think we should ever be involved," Ermita is quoted as saying. But like it or not, we are involved precisely because Filipinos find themselves caught in it.

Given the number of Filipinos working abroad, and the reach of their diaspora to practically every corner of the world, we need to forge a foreign policy that would, first of all, promote the national interest, and second, protect Filipino lives wherever conflict or tension arises.

We cannot just say "we're not getting involved" when so many Filipino lives are at risk. And we cannot keep scrambling for stop-gap solutions each time violence erupts. Given the number of years we've been exporting workers, and the billions these workers have been sending home, we owe it to them to have contingency plans in place, with resources at the ready and deployed with every crisis.

Table manners in Asean countries

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THERE IS A VERY INFORMATIVE SERIES OF books published by Asean that should get a wider audience. These are one-volume surveys of various aspects of culture and cultural life in the region. There is a volume on literature, on cinema, on architecture, on music and even on food. I was surprised to discover that these publications have been issued over the years by the Asean Committee on Culture and now there are enough books to fill a small shelf. These books are not for sale and they never make it to our bookstores, so they escaped the attention of readers who would be interested in them. *Sayang*.

One of the thick volumes that caught my attention was "Forms of Courtesy Among Asean Member Countries," a compilation of research reports from 1982 to 1991 in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Of course, I turned to the Philippine section first and found a matrix of contemporary forms or expressions of courtesy and even two chapters as case studies on the Mangyans of Mindoro and the Igorot-Ibaloy/Kankanai of Mountain Province. Our contribution was very professionally, anthropologically and academically done.

Malaysia's report came with illustrations and showed forms of courtesy during eating. They ate with the right hand (also referred to as "Adam's fork and spoon") and the hands were washed before and after a meal. Then there were other forms, more or less familiar to us: "Blowing the nose, spitting or clearing your throat while eating are impolite. However a quiet belch after a meal is permitted and regarded as a sign of appreciation... It is impolite to take your leave immediately after the meal. There is a saying that such a behavior is like that of leeches, when after sucking blood, they make themselves scarce... If you take leave while others are in the middle of eating, then you have to leave behind a 'representative' in the form of any of the dishes present. If one has to leave while food is being served or is served to you, it is necessary to take a pinch of the food so that the craving will not cause ill luck or *punan*."

Singapore being a multi-racial society, its report had table manners for Chinese, Malays and Indians. While many Filipinos can now use chopsticks as dexterously as they would brandish a fork and spoon, few of us are actually taught chopstick etiquette when we go to a Chinese or Japanese restaurant. One of the big no-nos many Filipinos commit is sticking a pair of chopsticks upright in a bowl of rice, which is done in funerals in Japan. Maybe on that piece of paper that has illustrations on how to hold and use chopsticks, the following should be added:

"Do not cross the chopsticks when placing them on the table. Do not use the chopsticks for picking your teeth (or ears). Do not keep the tips of the chopsticks in your mouth. Do not point at others with the chopsticks. Do not play with the chopsticks by striking the table or bowls with them. Do not scratch your head with the chopsticks. Do not rest chopsticks on the dinner plate or bowl. Never stick a chopstick upright in a rice bowl, not even to chop up something in it. Hold up the bowl and chopsticks (off the table) while eating."

What was not included is something we learned early in life: When taking food from a common bowl and there is no serving spoon, you turn your chopsticks round and use the end points that are not used to convey food to the mouth. We were always told that the chopsticks were a means to get food to the mouth and should not be placed directly inside the mouth as we would a spoon and a fork.

The other rules, more or less, were similar to ours: "One should not have a big mouthful of food and should not chew with the mouth open. It is certainly not courteous to chew, drink, or swallow with much noise... It is not proper to spit bits of unwanted food onto the floor, and it is considered poor manners to pick one's teeth during a meal."

Indian table manners in Singapore followed, and since this was something I knew very little about, it was the most interesting for me, especially the use of the right hand exclusively for eating *kamayan*-style:

"Irrespective of any physical problem (for instance, having hurt ones fingers), all Indians are expected to partake of food only with the right hand. The use of the left hand is abhorred to the extent that even in a relaxed non-Indian environment, very few Indians would unconsciously use the left hand to touch food. Children are continuously reprimanded for not using the right hand. While using the right hand, the spread of food contact is not expected to reach beyond the fingers or three-quarters of the palm. The use of the back of the palm would receive admonitions from parents and elders... After eating, it is the customary practice to wash one's hands and mouth. It is also normal to gargle one's mouth quietly with water." (My only question is: Do they do this at table and if they do, is it expelled? My grandfather used to gargle after meals and it made my stomach turn when he swallowed after gargling. *Sayang daw*.)

Learning about different forms of courtesy gives us perspective and understanding. Then we would have no incident in Canada about a Pinoy eating with a spoon.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Bungad's story

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ACTUALLY, THIS IS MY FRIEND GP's (ALSO KNOWN AS Jepoy) story.

The other day he called me, not knowing where to start. "Tiny! He was so very tiny...," he began.

"Wait, wait," I tried to calm him down, and eventually I was able to piece his story together. He had just helped to deliver a baby! Mind you, GP isn't a doctor, a nurse, a midwife, or a barangay health worker. The sister of his landlord, Jean, happened to be visiting Manila when she went into labor and...well, I'm jumping ahead of the story.

It's one of those amazing tales of the city, "city" here being Metro Manila, and I thought of sharing it to remind us of the bittersweet realities of life in our megapolis. For a change, I wondered: If babies could think and talk like adults, what story would baby Bungad tell? Read on.

Sensurround

Nanay and I had come to Manila to visit her brother. A few days at most, she told me. It was a long trip from Pangasinan, but then I got to travel First Class, complete with a water bed and sensurround—in the womb we don't see too much but the other senses are just so amplified. Bump, bump we went on the road, alternating with Nanay's heartbeat, *ti-bok, ti-bok, ti-bok*, and with mine, which went full-speed, *bok, bok, bok, bok*.

I figured we'd gotten to Manila when the noise levels went into a wild crescendo. I could hear the names of towns and cities being hollered, bus horns blaring away, music and sounds claiming to be music. I could hear babies crying, too, and I wondered what was in store for me once I joined them in the world out there.

The trip to my Tito Jess was bumpy again—gosh, Manila's roads are worse than the ones we have in Pangasinan. I could hear the strong rain pounding on the jeep and I felt Nanay's anxiety as she made her way around.

Back home, I'd eavesdrop on her conversations with friends, and quite often they'd talk about how much easier each pregnancy becomes. This was her sixth, so her friends figured it would be a breeze.

Ha! If they only knew. In the womb, I had learned to read what my Nanay's feelings were, from her heartbeat, from her breathing. I felt it all: happiness of all sizes and shapes, including the ones Tagalogs call "*nakakataba ng puso*." When she felt it, I did, too, from inside her. Sadness, too, came in different forms: the sadness that came from hurting was the most intense, but the ones that came with little anxieties worried me, too, in the way they nibbled away at Nanay's psyche, at her soul, and mine as well.

A soul? Yes, at some point in the pregnancy, we feel it too—some people call it "ensoulment." I call it being wanted: it's an overwhelming feeling, the moment when Nanay acknowledged I was around. It was unconditional, but I could hear her as she would, over the next few months, sigh and fret about new responsibilities. I didn't feel I was less wanted, but I knew that Nanay, as any good parent should, was worrying about what my future would be.

And so the months passed, as I learned to figure out the range of human emotions and feelings. Early on, I learned, too, about hunger, about waiting . . . and waiting, Nanay's own hunger pangs becoming mine, too, her heart at times taking a curiously different rhythm which I would figure out only later.

Sure, there were tranquil moments. Most of the time, I'd just stay put, serenely synchronized with Nanay's movements. Life's that way. A stressed life in the uterus, the scientists say, actually determines your predisposition to health problems later in life because your brain is always on red alert, always in a state of emergency.

Arrival

I'll fast-forward my story back to our visit to the big city. I'll admit there was a certain appeal to its chaotic din. As the days wore on, I figured, hey, how long am I going to have to wait before I see that exciting world?

One night, I thought, oh, no, do I have to wait till we get back to Pangasinan to be born? I want out. I want to see Manila, now *na*. So I began to push, tentatively at first, and then with more determination, you know like the way they knock on doors except this was the cervix. And Nanay would reply with her heart: *tibok tibok, bok bok*. I knew she was apprehensive, and it made me feel guilty, but hey, this is Manila. If I wait till I'm born in Pangasinan, it'll be years before I see the big city.

I could hear Nanay talking, to herself, maybe to me: "It's not time yet. Not now. We can't afford to go to a hospital here in Manila." She wanted to cry out but held back, not wanting to alarm Tito Jess and the others in the house.

The long night wore on and the new day found Nanay unable to hold back. I could sense people rushing about, trying to figure what to do. I could hear the name of a hospital mentioned several times and that it'd take only five minutes in a taxi to get there, but no one seemed to have any money, not even for a taxi.

I was feeling really guilty now. If I had a cell phone I'd have texted Nanay and told her it was OK, we could wait till we got back to Pangasinan. But it was too late now, the bag had broken, the world was waiting for me.

"Oh no," I thought as I moved out into the world, a hand grasping my head. I could hear him, that was Tito GP, asking for help, asking what to do next and then talking to me. "You're so small," he said. "You're like a Pepsi bottle."

Then suddenly, pak!

"*Hoy*, quit it," I wanted to tell him, "that only happens in the movies. Clean out my nose and all this muck and I'll cry for you."

Pak! "Hey, quit it!" I had to summon all the energy to cry out, in Sanggolese, "Announcing the arrival of Batang Quezon City!"

Thanks

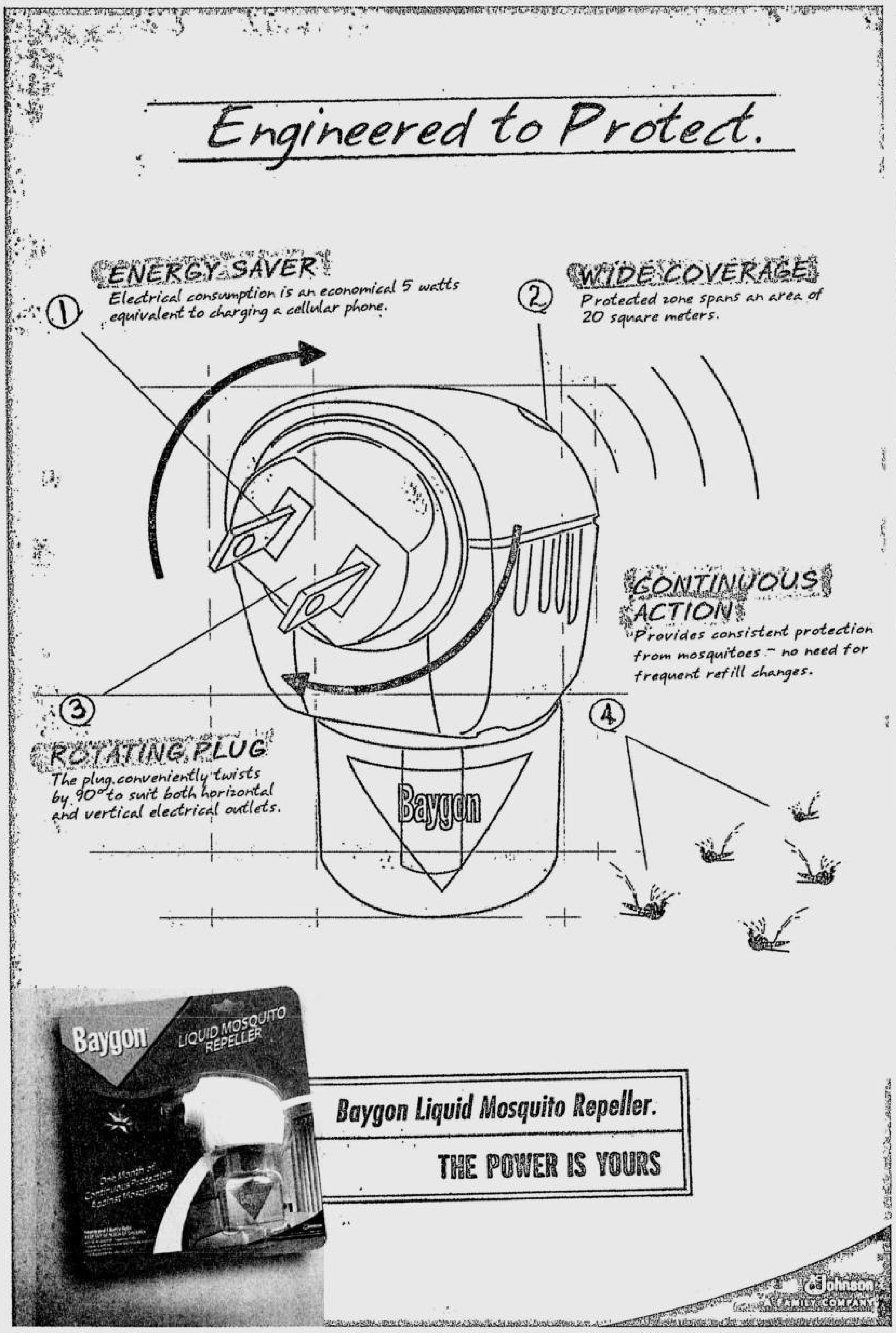
Of course, they didn't understand me, but I could feel everyone sighing in relief. There was more commotion as they prepared to move Nanay and me to the health center. I was still connected to Nanay because no one wanted to cut the umbilical cord. I could hear Tito GP going: hey, the kid was born at the *bungad*, at the doorway, let's call him Bungad, baby Bungad.

I was too tired to protest, just thankful I'd made it, thankful Nanay was fine. I was famished and as I reached out for breakfast, I suddenly understood why Nanay's heartbeat sometimes went *tibukbuk, tibukbuk*. She had a huge goiter.

That's why I'm writing this story for the INQUIRER. I get Mike Tan's honorarium for today's column so I can get some tests at the Philippine General Hospital.

If I'm OK, well, this is just to remind you that for each birth in this enchanted disenchanted kingdom that's the Philippines, there's much to be thankful for, considering the odds we face for survival. I know this is only the beginning. For now, I guess I should be grateful, knowing they were probably kidding about naming me Bungad.

And boy, am I glad I wasn't born in a taxi. How do you think GP got his name?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Is boxing a sport?

CALL ME "UN-NATIONALISTIC." Call me "un-patronizing," but there is no way I can be convinced to rejoice over the July 2 victory of the Philippine boxing team, led by Manny Pacquiao.

First of all, is boxing really a sport? Boxing was invented as a form of entertainment for "rich" people. Only slaves were required to fight against each other for the sheer enjoyment of their masters. Later on, it became a form of gambling which up to now, it surely is. Do we, Filipinos, really love violence? Are we inherent gamblers?

I apologize to say this, but I was really so shocked to see people like the Megastar enjoy such a violent spectacle. Don't we realize how many people have been mentally damaged and physically incapacitated by this "so-called sport"?

—ABDULRAHMAN ANTONIO EFONDO,
514 Cebu St., Barangay Pitogo,
Guadalupe, Makati

Helpless in Lebanon

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

AS AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO worker, I am horrified by the slow and unclear response of the Philippine government to the plight of 30,000 Filipino workers who are helplessly trapped in Lebanon.

The government, as expected, has again made the excuse of lack of funds. Without even first instituting its own assistance mechanisms, it has already resorted to outside support, such as asking for the help of the Vatican. The government's so-called "innovative" ways to secure the lives of its citizens in Lebanon include seeking refuge in Catholic churches, as if those infrastructures are immune from bombings.

Other governments, even before the war broke, already had clear evacuation plans for their citizens. The Philippines, which has the second-highest number of nationals in Lebanon (Canada has the highest at 40,000 citizens), did not even have the foresight to plan for possible evacuation even as war was looming.

Estrelita Hizon, president of a recruiters' group and who sits comfortably on the board of trustees of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), even declared, rather irresponsibly, that what was happening in Lebanon was not that bad and scary, even if the emergency alert level was already at No. 3.

OFWs send billions of dollars to the Philippines ($11.5 billion last year), and not a single cent is allocated for helping overseas Filipinos in a crisis? Where is the emergency repatriation fund of P100 million that should have been allotted for such cases as mandated by the Magna Carta for OFWs? Where are the billions of pesos in OWWA funds?

Remittances from OFWs keep the Philippine economy afloat and the least that this inutile government can do is ensure that its "milking cows" are out of danger so that the remittances won't be disrupted. According to Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, it would cost $300 to $400 to ferry each person out by ship, or $12 million for all the 30,000 Filipinos in Lebanon. What is $12 million compared with the billions of dollars that we OFWs send back to the country? What is $12 million if that is the cost of our lives?

With the help of their governments, most foreign nationals have left Lebanon already, in one of the biggest mass evacuations since World War II. Meanwhile, the Philippine government is still debating how to repatriate OFWs, some of whom were abandoned by their employers who fled Lebanon.

There have been reports of Filipino evacuees in one church being packed like sardines. Meanwhile, Defensor and Gonzalez say the "current situation showed that the Filipinos were still safe."

What a talent for inutility.—**Gilbert Sape, 12-2 Block B, Greenlane Heights, Penang, Malaysia (via e-mail)**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Friday, July 21, 2006

Philippine Idol
Saksihan: Judges, kikilatis sa magiging Idol ng Bayan!
The phenomenon begins July 29, Saturday, 8 PM
PHILIPPINE IDOL NA!
ABC Iba tayo

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	MVP Cup					Sentro	PBA				Big News	Real Stories			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Lito Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	Maalaala Mo Kaya		Bandila	Gudtym		
AXN		The Patriot					30 Seconds To Fame	Amazon		The Amazing Race 6		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	XXX					National Security
Cartoon Network	Pixie And Dixie	All New Popeye Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Teen Titans	Justice League	The Batman	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock
Cinema One		Kaya Kong Abutin Ang Langit				Nasaan Ka Man				Minsan Ko Lang Sasabihin				Sakristan Mayor				Lihim	
Cinemax		Mystic River (3:15 PM)					Blue Demon (5:40 PM)			The Making Of Battlestar Galactica		Battlestar Galactica Mission 6			Tremors 4 The Legend Begins (9:20 PM)			We're No Angels	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Crime Scene Academy	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Content		Crossing Jordan	
Discovery Channel		We Built This City		More Than Human		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	Beyond Tomorrow		Rides 2		American Chopper		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	The Xtractors		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				The Open Championships 2006 2nd rd								Germany Tonight		Sportscenter Asia	The Open Championships 2006 2nd rd				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia 2		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas in Today's World	Fr John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Panbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Strong Medicine (3:15 PM)		Within These Walls (4:05 PM)				McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Missing I		Wire In The Blood		Midsomer Murders Blue Herring			Wire In The Blood
HBO		Duma (3:15 PM)				A Thousand Acres				Locusts: The 8th Plague			New On The Big Screen In July	Jerry Maguire				Catwoman (11:15 PM)	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E	Super Gals	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E	Super Gals	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics: Arnis		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics: Arnis	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	American Dad	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solution	Sensible Chic	DIY Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV Hits	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	MTV Hits	MTV Diyos		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV News	Handpicked Sits		
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Volcano - Built for Destruction		Amazon Claws		Top 5 - Amazing Moments		WOW! Wild Life Adventure		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Volcano - Mega Volcano		The Great Indian Witch Hunt	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas			Dapat Ka Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Convergence	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today	Ang Pagbubuyag		News Beat (Live)		Opentime (Live)	Kasalo Sa Hapagbuhay	INC Chronicles E	INC Chronicles F	Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	DWTV Journal News	Convergence
Nickelodeon	ChalkZone	Hey Arnold	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants Right On Top	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron My Life As A Teenage Robot	Kick Kicks! All Grown Up		Danny Phantom	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous/ Kid's Choice Awards	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Ang Boyfriend Kong Gamol				Virgin Wife				Bakweg				Tusong Twosome				The Ultimate Champion Rachel Ann Go
Qtv		Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		World Poker Tour		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sheperds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports					Phil Mountain Bike Tour	Toshiba Vegas Summer League Knicks				Sagupaan	NBA Jam	Badminton 2006 JVC Open				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	2006 Uber Cup Sfinals	
Sports Plus		Golf Today	Inside the PGA	World Greatest Auto Show		New England 300 Highlights		World Game		Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision	Rookie Manual	BD Palm Springs	Wild Side Tampa Cabo	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	Buck Cheap Fights	
Star Movies	Mrs. Doubtfire (2:40 PM)				Evel Knievel (4:45 PM)				Opening Night Lady In Water	The Parent Trap (6:50 PM)				Raising Helen				National Treasure	
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Rockstar Supernova		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Teen Titans		The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Barkada Nights			Nanzo (9:10 PM)	Will & Grace	News Central	Oprah		Rusty World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Beirut's lone ...

From page A1

were to arrive in Damascus in nine hours.

Labor Undersecretary Danilo Cruz said that before the conflict, Damascus could usually be reached in two hours. The Israeli air strikes, however, had damaged major roads and bridges so the Filipinos' buses would have to take several detours, he said.

Chartered flight

From Damascus, the Filipinos will board a chartered Lockheed 11 aircraft of Emirates Airlines to fly them directly to the Philippines.

The group is expected to arrive in Manila at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Total expenses for the OFWs' trip home would amount to $300,000, according to Cruz.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion clarified that repatriation was still voluntary, explaining that ultimately the pace of the evacuation would depend on the willingness of the OFWs to leave.

More funds would be released if the number of OFWs wanting to leave rose, if other routes out of Lebanon (such as by ship to Cyprus) would be chosen, or if the situation deteriorated and the foreign department issued a mass evacuation order, according to Brion.

P150 million more

The Philippine government has released an additional P150 million for the evacuation of Filipino workers in Lebanon, but many of them wished to remain despite repeated Israeli attacks on Beirut and other parts of the country that have left more than 300 people dead, officials said yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the P150 million was on top of the P25 million that was earlier allotted by the Owwa as initial funding for the evacuation of the overseas Filipino workers.

Brion said only about 1,000 OFWs had so far registered at the Philippine Embassy in Beirut to indicate their willingness to be evacuated if the level of hostilities worsened.

"Not all would like to be repatriated though, many want to stay," Brion said. "They believe that this problem would come and go and they want to be in place when peace returns."

Roy Cimatu, special envoy to the Middle East, said he still had to "assess the situation on the ground" before deciding whether there was a need to order a mandatory evacuation of the OFWs in Lebanon.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said majority of the OFWs wanted to remain with their employers. "Ultimately, the decision is with the (worker). We gave them a choice [of] a repatriation program and buses and airplanes that could bring them home," Asuque said.

Slow response

However, Connie Regalado of Migrante International, a support group for overseas workers, denied that most Filipinos wanted to stay and said the government's response was being determined by money.

"It is not true that many Filipinos do not want to go home from Lebanon as the foreign office wants to portray. We have talked to many of them and they said they had not received anything from the embassy," she said.

"The first thing anyone will think of in a situation like this is to save his own life. There is just neglect in the slowness by which the government responded," Regalado said as she led families of workers stuck in Lebanon in a protest outside the DFA office in Manila.

The Philippine government continued to advise OFWs in Lebanon to either stay with their employers or go to relocation sites pinpointed by the Philippine Embassy in Beirut.

Appeal to Israel, Hezbollah

President Arroyo appealed to Israel and Hezbollah to refrain from harming Filipinos stranded in Lebanon and urged the international community to help evacuate them.

"The Philippines makes a special appeal to all combatant forces to spare Filipino nationals who have no wish other than to be taken out of harm's way," she said in a statement.

"In the name of humanity, I ask the combatants not to harm them," she added, while appealing for other countries to "help us in the evacuation process."

Filipino officials have conceded that they are unable to evacuate thousands of people on their own, and the government has appealed to the United States, European countries and the Gulf states to find space for Filipinos on planes and ships evacuating people from Beirut.

Assistance fund

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the P150 million would come from the DFA's Assistance to Nationals Fund, a standby fund tapped for contingencies involving Filipinos abroad.

In a statement, Andaya quoted a letter sent by the DFA to his office in which the department said it would use the P150 million for "supplies, transport and communications" needed for the "emergency relocation" of Filipinos in Lebanon.

It appeared the P150 million would include the $2 million that the Owwa had approved yesterday for release as an "initial standby fund" for the evacuation and repatriation of the OFWs in Beirut.

Brion told reporters the Owwa money would be used to cover transportation and other incidental expenses for the first 2,000 evacuees.

Sovereign guarantee

Saying that OFWs must also "be covered by a sovereign guarantee," Sen. Ralph Recto scored the government's eagerness to pay its creditors while scrimping on funds to evacuate the OFWs from strife-torn Lebanon.

Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, noted the government had already paid P391.7 billion to the country's foreign creditors this year while funds were lacking for the evacuation of the Filipino workers.

He said the remittances of the OFWs in Lebanon were "something that can't be sneezed at." With each of them sending back to the Philippines an estimated P6,000 a month, or a total of P72,000 a year, their combined contribution to the economy "is a staggering P2 billion a year," Recto said.

$2M to bring home OFWs

In her phone conversation with Cimatu, Ms Arroyo said she asked for the P150 million after learning that he needed $2 million to lease ships and planes for the OFWs.

"Bring them home safely just as you did in Iraq," Ms Arroyo told Cimatu, referring to the first batch of 192 OFWs he would be picking up in Damascus.

The President acknowledged that government resources to help the OFWs out of Lebanon may not be enough.

"Our resources may not be enough but we're trying to address the problem by teaming up with other foreign countries that could help us in the evacuation process," she said in her statement. With reports from Philip C. Tubeza in Manila and AFP

HOTLINES

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMployment Administration (POEA) and the Manila-based organization of Lebanon-deploying recruiters, the Philippine Association of Mediterranean Agencies Deploying Labours Inc. (Pamadel), released a list showing where Filipinos are working in Lebanon.

As of 2006, there are about 18,000 OFWs in Beirut; 477 in Tripoli; Jounie, 372; Dora, 314; Saida, 284; Antillas, 192; Hazmieh, 63, and Jubail, 46. Others are found in Masaide, Baalbeck, Nacache, Chiah, El Mina, Hermel, Batroun, Zahle, Sidon, Jassin, Ez Zahrani, Tyre and Nuquora.

Pamadel president Estrelita Hizon yesterday opened a crisis coordination office for OFWs in Lebanon in the group's office on Angel Linao and San Andres Streets in Malate, Manila (hotline: 522-4416).

The center will be manned 24 hours by Pamadel members or representatives, who will receive information from thousands of distressed relatives of the OFWs.

In Iloilo City, the POEA office will be open 24 hours to accommodate queries from relatives of OFWs.

Relatives could also call the Owwa regional office's hotline—033-3374484—for their inquiries. Relatives can give the names of the people they are looking for so that the Owwa can match them with the list of those being evacuated in Lebanon.

Pulse Asia survey: 27% don't believe GMA Sona will be truthful

NEARLY ONE IN EVERY FOUR Filipinos, who are aware of President Macapagal-Arroyo's past State of the Nation Addresses, does not believe that her next Sona, which she is set to deliver on Monday, will be truthful, according to results of a survey by Pulse Asia Inc.

The Sona, which outlines the President's programs and policy initiatives for the year, is delivered at the joint session of the House of Representatives and Senate to formally signal the opening of the regular session of Congress.

A considerable majority (65 percent) said they were aware of the President's previous addresses, with the awareness level highest in Metro Manila (83 percent) and among classes ABC (90 percent).

The number of those who believe the Sona would not be truthful dropped from 45 percent in July 2005 to 27 percent this year.

But more than half (56 percent) said they were undecided on the truthfulness of the upcoming Sona, Ms Arroyo's sixth since 2001. This ambivalence was evident across geographic areas and socioeconomic classes.

Nearly one in two Filipinos—or around 15 million Filipino adults—is unable to say whether the President's previous Sonas had been truthful.

Between July 2005 and July 2006, this level of indecision increased from 38 percent to 49 percent.

While the number of Filipinos who thought that the previous Sonas had not been truthful decreased from 44 percent in July 2005 to 31 percent this year, the number of Filipinos who believe in the truthfulness of the past addresses stayed at almost the same level, from 18 percent in July 2005 to 19 percent, in July 2006.

The nationwide survey was conducted between June 24 and July 8 using face-to-face interviews of 1,200 representative adults aged 18 years and above. It has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Tell the truth

In the House, Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano called on Ms Arroyo to "tell the truth" in her Sona on July 24.

Cayetano said the Sona had become the platform of Presidents for "propaganda and window-dressing of their achievements," rather than its original purpose of telling the true state of the nation and of outlining its problems and challenges.

He urged Ms Arroyo whom the House minority and anti-Arroyo forces are seeking to unseat not to "waste a great opportunity of harnessing national support in nation building and solving our country's problems."

Unless radical changes were done, the country would continue to be in a state of paralysis, said Cayetano, who believed that the country had stopped moving since 2004.

"We challenge President Arroyo to tell the true Sona and call for genuine reforms," he said. *Reports from Kate Pedroso, PDI Research, and Michael Lim Ubac*

16,000 cops: City a fortress for Sona

From page A1

operations group of the New People's Army from Mindoro would try to sneak into the capital and lob grenades if the protests turned violent. The NPA is the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

'Master of story telling'

Querol said the police were trying to seal "back doors" where communist rebels might try to use to get to the capital.

But militants dismissed the report as fabricated and called Querol a "master of grand storytelling."

Told that several convoys of protesters were deliberately barred last year from entering the capital to join rallies at the Batasan complex in Quezon City, PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said: "My instructions were (to go after) loose firearms and explosives, and not to harass commuters, passersby and those who would like to attend the Sona."

Calderon assured militants that "there shall be no harassment whatsoever."

He said the police were not expecting clashes on July 24.

Plastic handcuffs

Even then, the NCRPO has purchased some 300 plastic handcuffs for those who might be arrested.

They are deemed to cause less injury compared to metal handcuffs, according to Querol.

Asked if the police meant to intimidate protesters, hence the deployment of 16,000 men, Calderon said only about 7,000 to 8,000 cops would be tasked with securing the Batasan complex and the roads leading to it.

"Rest assured our boys who will be fielded are fully trained ... We have a matrix of graduated responses," he said, adding if the crowd gets rowdy, police will apply a "commensurate force."

Police are expected to go on full alert on Sunday, which means all leaves and passes of policemen are canceled.

WE COULD GO ON AND ON
ABOUT HOW IT GOES ON AND ON.

intel Xeon inside

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Senga misled Lim, Querubin to foil coup try, say probers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Generoso Senga had deliberately misled ex-Scout Rangers chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin in order to foil the attempt to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24, military investigators claimed yesterday.

"History will show that what was crucial there was the action of the CS (Chief of Staff Senga)," Armed Forces Inspector General Rear Admiral Rufino Lopez said in a news conference yesterday where he announced the results of the investigation into the failed Feb. 24 coup.

"The action of the CS prevented what could have been a coup d'etat," said Lopez, who headed the eight-person committee that Senga formed in April to investigate the plot.

Lopez announced the panel's findings on the eve of Senga's retirement as military chief of staff.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon will replace Senga who served for 11 months.

Lopez belied reports that Senga had initially agreed to Lim and Querubin's proposal to lead a military withdrawal of support from President Arroyo during the Edsa People Power anniversary on Feb. 24.

Senga not investigated

But he admitted their investigation did not touch on Senga.

Flanked by other members of the committee, Lopez announced Senga had approved the committee's recommendation to start court-martial proceedings against Lim, Querubin, ex-Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and 37 other Scout Ranger and Marine officers.

A total of 125 Scout Ranger enlisted personnel would also undergo further investigation and summary dismissal proceedings before the Army, according to Lopez.

"We can safely say there was a plan of withdrawal of support. The Lim videotape all the more confirmed the plan... By our military justice system, by our Articles of War, that is tantamount to mutiny and coup d'etat," Lopez said.

"They're trying to create scenarios similar to Edsa 1 and 2," he added.

All officers, including the major service commanders who had a part in the Feb. 23-Feb. 26 events, "were given the chance to explain their participation, what they had observed," except for Senga.

"The CS is not under our investigation. He formed our panel... He directed this press conference," Lopez reasoned out.

In a draft report, the committee said Lim and Querubin met with Senga and Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J2), around 7 p.m. of Feb. 23.

After learning of Lim and Querubin's plan to march to Edsa and withdraw support from President Arroyo, Senga called his service commanders to an emergency meeting at 9 p.m., the report said.

During that time, Lim and Querubin spread the word that Senga had agreed to the plot.

At around 11:30 p.m., Senga and the rest of the top brass called Lim and Querubin back to tell them to drop their plans. The meeting reportedly lasted until 12:30 a.m., during which time Scout Ranger troops had started moving on Manila.

Delaying tactic

According to Lopez, the "delay" on Senga's part was deliberate so he could prepare countermeasures while Lim and Querubin ran out of time to react.

"If I know the CS, he's a good, seasoned field commander. He is an intelligence officer. You may not know he was nearly J2 (chief). Based on our conversations, he had time on his side. The other side was in need of time, so the delay was to his advantage. He had to get the facts, the information," said Lopez.

"When he gave the instruction (to Lim and Querubin not to push through with their plans), the AFP was ready," Lopez said.

He added that Senga deliberately delayed committing his participation to Lim and Querubin.

"Military commanders will tell you that. *Kasama sa laro yan* (It's part of the game plan). You deprive them of time," Lopez said.

"The CS knows where his heart is. He is a constitutionalist," Lopez went on, adding that the rest of the top brass, including Maclang, "were clear about their position" to stick to the chain of command.

Lopez, however, could not say why after giving the warning, Senga allowed Lim, Querubin and Miranda to leave and return to Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio where Miranda called an emergency meeting around 1 a.m. of Feb. 24.

While the Marine officers were meeting, Senga presided over a meeting in the AFP War Room.

Lopez also could not say whether Lim asked to be taken into custody or whether Senga ordered it.

He said allegations that Senga vacillated were "very unfair."

On Wednesday, Senga approved the stiff recommendations made by the committee starting with court-martial proceedings against 25 Scout Ranger officers and 15 Marine officers.

Officers relieved of posts

He also approved the recommendation to relieve these officers from their posts and place them "under custody" of their commanding officers.

"With the approval of the chief of staff, it should take effect immediately," said Lopez.

These officers will also face dismissal proceedings before the Army and Navy Efficiency and Separation Boards.

"Officers and enlisted personnel found guilty of participation in any destabilization activities against the government should be removed from the military service," said the Lopez committee report.

Lopez yesterday did not identify the other officers implicated in the Feb. 24 plot. Except for Querubin, none of the Marine officers implicated had been restricted to quarters. In fact many of them were given assignments.

Gringo behind coup, San Juan details in affidavit on Feb. 24 plot

From page A1

the revolution against Spain.

The affidavit appeared to flesh out official accounts of alleged continuing plots against Ms Arroyo by the Magdalo and its efforts to forge alliances with civil society groups and communist rebels.

Honasan-Lim link

It also revealed that the alleged plot to oust President Arroyo in February by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim involved Honasan.

The document sought to establish that Lim's statement withdrawing support from Ms Arroyo on Feb. 24 had been prepared months earlier in a meeting with Honasan, contrary to Lim's claim that he did not know its provenance.

It was the first time that Honasan's group, the Makabayang Kawal Pilipino (MKP), and Lim's group dubbed "Para sa Bayan" had been directly linked to each other.

Lim had recently said he was given the statement which he read for video taping on the eve of the supposed disavowal of loyalty to Ms Arroyo in a bid to force her to resign as part of an arrangement with disgruntled soldiers to avoid a violent uprising.

In the document, San Juan also named several other active and retired military officers, politicians and known anti-Arroyo critics who supposedly supported Honasan's MKP.

A copy of the document shown the INQUIRER was signed but the signature differed from San Juan's signature on his July 14 media statement and his April 27 letter to Army chief and incoming Armed Forces Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon.

The affidavit was not dated and not notarized. Army officials have officially denied knowledge of the document, which did not state the purpose it would serve.

Left-Right conspiracy

On Feb. 24, Ms Arroyo, who survived an impeachment attempt last year over charges she stole the 2004 presidential election, declared a state of national emergency, citing a leftist and rightist conspiracy to topple her administration.

Honasan, 58, has been accused of rebellion in connection with the Magdalo takeover of the Oakwood hotel complex in Makati City in July 2003 but had gone underground. He had been involved in several coup attempts against ex-President Corazon Aquino before he was elected senator.

First meeting

The document said San Juan first met Honasan in 2001 in Zamboanga City when he was then a platoon leader of the Light Reaction Company.

"Gringo told us the stories behind the 1986, 1987 and 1989 (coups). He said the problems we were experiencing now in the AFP were the same ones they had experienced before," San Juan reportedly said.

"Then he asked us if we wanted to fight for a cause, for reforms, for genuine change. This was the time I affirmed my desire to join the group," he said.

According to the affidavit, more meetings among leaders and followers of the Magdalo followed, including one in the house of former President Joseph Estrada's deputy executive secretary Ramon "Eki" Cardenas during the first quarter of 2002 that was attended by 15 to 20 officers.

Honasan introduced himself as "Kuya," the affidavit said. It was here that they marked their left arms with the "alibata" letter "K." Honasan himself demonstrated how it was done, San Juan said, showing his arm that still bore a fresh wound in the shape of the letter, indicating he had just presided over a similar ritual.

A worthwhile project

Honasan remarked: "This is a worthwhile project. Let us intensify the recruitment so there would be many like you. I would rather spend my pork barrel for people like you with good intentions for the country rather than have it spent just anywhere else."

San Juan said he received P5,000 after the meeting as reimbursement of his travel expenses.

In December 2004, San Juan said he attended another meeting in or near the Ortigas area. The place was a "big house with a sloping garage" near a guardhouse.

"I noticed the activity was more organized than (the one) we had during the Magdalo ritual. Present were Gringo, Col. Felix Turingan and Col. Jake Malajacan, whom the group identified as the 'elders,'" the document said.

Other plotters

In a news conference on July 14, San Juan denied that he had identified their financiers and supporters as part of the arrangement for his return to the military.

The affidavit said among those San Juan plotted with aside from Honasan and Lim were detained Marine Col. Ariel Querubin; a group of retired officers including Malajacan, Turingan, Col. Rafael Galvez, Victor Batac and Mel Acosta; former University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo and activist Renato Constantino Jr.

It said among the many meeting places aside from Cardenas's home earlier was the residence of Ambassador Raymundo Parungao in 2006.

San Juan claimed in the affidavit that the Magdalo rebels reorganized months after the failed Oakwood mutiny and that he was able to get out of Army detention several times to meet with Honasan et al.

Withdrawal manifesto

San Juan said sometime in the third quarter of 2005, he attended a brief meeting among Lim, Querubin, Honasan, Turingan, Malajacan, a certain Mark (supposedly Belmonte's code name), 1st Lt. Angelbert Gay and 1st Lt. Aldrin Baldonado at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City.

San Juan claimed he heard Lim mention a "manifesto regarding the withdrawal of support to be signed by senior officers."

"I also heard Gringo say *"Etong mga ito* (pointing to us) *naghahanap ng tatayong* (are looking for a) leader," San Juan said.

San Juan said Honasan left shortly after saying he was meeting with former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, who has also been linked by the military to Lim's planned military junta.

San Juan claimed he along with Gay and Baldonado again attended a meeting between Lim, Querubin, Honasan, Turingan, Malajacan and Galvez in a condominium in Wack Wack in Mandaluyong City sometime in the last quarter of 2005.

He claimed he met with Nemenzo and Constantino during the third quarter of 2005 to discuss Honasan's National Recovery Program and the Blue Print for a Viable Philippines. He claimed "Randy David was not able to attend." David is a University of the Philippines professor and an INQUIRER columnist.

Nemenzo confirmed the meeting with San Juan. He told the INQUIRER that he approved of the use of "people power" to remove a president whose legitimacy was in doubt, but not a coup.

Affidavit excerpts: Real reform should start now

From page A1

ing right now in the AFP are the same they experienced before. He pointed out that the reforms they wanted before have not materialized by the fact that officers and soldiers in the field then and now are facing the same issues. He further said that reforms should start now. Then he asked us if we want to fight for cause, for reforms, for genuine change. This was the time I affirmed my desire to join the 'group.' During this time, I still don't know the name of the group and what the group would do. At around 1:00 in the morning the meeting was adjourned.

"Sometime on the 1st quarter of 2002, I attended another meeting. This was my 3rd meeting with the group. It was CPT MAESTRECAMPO who fed me instructions on what to do. I was directed to a place along EDSA-Ayala area. (I can't remember the exact place) and was fetched by an American van. Inside the van, I saw several junior officers. At the house of Ecky Cardenas where the meeting was held. I saw Gringo Honasan, Felix Turingan, Cpt. Maestrecampo, Cpt Trillanes, Ltsg Layug, 1LT Dagupon, 1Lt Bumidang, Ltsg Pascua. There were around 15-20 of us. All the active officers present are from classes ranging from '95 to '98.

"We first had our dinner before the formal meeting/ritual started. After everybody was done eating, everybody was told to find a place to sit around the long table. It was Cpt. Trillanes who opened the program. We first introduced ourselves by code names. Gringo gave his code name as 'Kuya.' Then we recited our oath and prayers. The next part of the ritual/program was the writing of an alibata 'K' on our left inner arm using the 'tanto' knife. Gringo explained the use of the 'tanto' knife, shortened samurai and then demonstrated the writing. When he was about to demonstrate. Turingan tried to stop him and said 'Greg wag ka na siguro magsugal, sariwa pa yang sugat mo...' However, he replied in the negative and continued to demonstrate. When Gringo lifted his arm, I saw several marks and indeed some were still fresh.

"Only two knives were used which was sterilized by alcohol. The knife was passed around a long table where we were sitting. Those who don't have the marks cut it themselves. The blood on our wounds was used to sign for ones name in the oath through thumb marking and likewise placing the blood in the flag. That ended the ritual. Gringo gave a parting message after the ritual. He said 'this is a worthwhile project. Pag-ibayuhin natin ang pag-recruit upang dumami ang tulad ninyo. I would rather spend my pork barrel for you people na may magandang hangarin para sa bansa kaysa kung saan-saan lang mapunta ang perang ito.' Before we parted, we were given few instructions regarding the use of cell phones, other 'operational' procedures to keep the meeting to ourselves...

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'Jueteng' gets stronger in C. Luzon

"JUETENG" FEVER IS SWEEPING a large part of Luzon and the underworld lottery that authorities said had been checked has never been stronger.

The names of its operators remain the same, based on interviews with sources and documents furnished the INQUIRER.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a staunch antijueteng crusader, would neither confirm nor deny if the names being linked to jueteng operations in Pangasinan were the ones behind the illegal numbers game.

While he admitted having heard of these "names being mentioned many times over," Cruz said he would rather not be specific about the identities of these people.

He said he would leave it to authorities "to determine who those 'lords' are and who their protectors are."

Supt. Noli Taliño, deputy director for operations of the Pangasinan police, said he had also heard of the names "Clyde" and "Lito" as the ones supposedly operating jueteng in the province.

A police report showed that the provincial police's 16 raids from January to July 18 this year led to 37 arrests.

At least 16 cases were filed in court while P12,956 in bet money was recovered.

"Jueteng, being illegitimate, cannot be promoted if there are no protectors of those operating and funding it. Operation and protection always come in pair. If you remove one, the other will not exist. This is true for other illegitimate activities like drugs, prostitution and the like," Cruz said.

Cruz, national chair of the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Sugal, said he was aware that jueteng had returned in most towns in his archdiocese.

Cagayan Valley

In Cagayan Valley, jueteng continued in four provinces in the region, with antigambling officials blaming the supposed connivance of some government officials and the police.

Police said bet collection was either done clandestinely or were for the government-sanctioned EZ-2 lottery.

Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba said the proliferation of illegal gambling continued to be a "partnership" between elective local officials and the police.

"It takes two to tango. If local officials would say no, and the police would likewise say no, jueteng can never survive," he said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

Mamba confirmed reports that a certain Danny Soriano has been allegedly operating the illegal numbers games in at least two districts in Cagayan.

Cagayan Gov. Edgar Lara, however, denied reports that an organized form of jueteng, or one that usually had the blessing of government officials, operated in his province.

"But I cannot say with all certainty that there would be no sporadic and unorganized, probably guerrilla jueteng operations in a few parts of Cagayan," he said.

Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca said she wished she had more allies among local officials in the fight against jueteng.

"I have already asked the help of all the levels in the Philippine National Police [hierarchy], even up to [Local Government] Secretary [Ronaldo] Puno, but to no avail. I just hope I would not be constrained to go to the level of the President again," she said.

Senior Supt. Jude Santos, acting Isabela police director, said the police have adopted a relentless campaign against jueteng in the province.

He identified a certain Jun Ramirez as the alleged financier of guerrilla type jueteng operations in various town and cities of Isabela.

'Jueteng, being illegitimate, cannot be promoted if there are no protectors of those operating and funding it'

Spill over

In Nueva Vizcaya, Gov. Luisa Cuaresma said she was dismayed that despite her order to the police to stop jueteng, bet collections continued.

"It seems the police cannot stop it. Instead of going after the *cobradores*, they gave me certifications that towns were jueteng-free," she said.

Quirino Gov. Pedro Bacani blamed the "spill over" operations of jueteng in a number of towns in Isabela and in Santiago City for the reported bet collection in several towns in his province.

"These bet collectors come from [the towns of] Cordon and San Agustin and Santiago City (in Isabela), where draws are reportedly being held three times a day," he said.

He said he did not know the supposed financiers of jueteng in his province.

"They conduct guerrilla collections, and run to the [provincial] border once they are chased. They are wily," Bacani said.

Central Luzon

Only "sporadic" jueteng operations have been monitored in Central Luzon since February, a top police official said.

This was why police have no list yet of financiers who are known to have resumed the illegal numbers game, said Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, regional police director.

Rafanan said only Bebot Roxas of Tarlac is believed to have gone back to the trade.

The names of 34 others, who landed in the police list that the INQUIRER obtained a few weeks before the game was "totally stopped" on May 4, 2005, have not been reentered.

INQUIRER sources among the police and residents have reported a completely different situation.

Suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda is said to be both into the legal Small Town Lottery operations and jueteng in Angeles City, Pampanga and Bataan.

A close relative of Pineda said the latter has busied himself in his businesses. The name of Pineda is stamped in *papelitos* or jueteng bet sheets in the City of San Fernando, though.

In Zambales, reports said Peping Bildan started jueteng operations there in March.

Senior Supt. Arrazad Subong, provincial police director, said jueteng has returned in the province, saying operators have learned to hide this illegal numbers game to elude arrest.

Subong said they have arrested several bet collectors, mostly in Subic town and nearby Olongapo City.

"Jueteng operators will temporarily ease up during a crackdown. But they have never really stopped, they just go into hiding," he said.

Senior Supt. Angelito Pacia, Olongapo City police director, said guerrilla-type jueteng operations in the city use the PCSO's EZ-2 lottery as a front.

Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, former chief of the regional anti-illegal gambling task force, said he has no information on the reported operations of a certain Peter in Bulacan.

STL and jueteng

Rafanan said it had been difficult for policemen to arrest suspected jueteng collectors because in many cases, they turned out to be STL collectors.

He said on a weekly basis, provincial and city police directors get directives to "pinpoint, locate and neutralize" those behind any forms of illegal gambling.

Field reports said that collectors solicit bets for jueteng than for STL. They also use jueteng paraphernalia, instead of STL cards.

Reports from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Melvin Gascon and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, Carmela Reyes and Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUSPECTED JUETENG LORDS

IN THE CENTRAL Luzon police's list, these people were tagged as the biggest operators of "jueteng" in the region prior to its May 4, 2005 stoppage. Sources in jueteng circles say they still run the underworld lottery.

Central Luzon

Bataan : Bong Pineda
Bulacan : Tony Santos, Bong Pineda, Lad Viceo, Mayor Estrella, Barangay Capt. Edison, Abet and Nonie Viceo, Otto Balboa, Jojo Tolentino, Fredo Galvez, Rodolfo Perez, Abet Navarro, Alias Peter
Pampanga: Bong Pineda (STL front), Otto Balboa, Fernando Cruz, Efren Mallari, Jesse Macaspac. Melchor Caluag
Nueva Ecija: Bong Pineda,Alias Monte and Kapitan Cesar, Mario de la Pena, Alias Fernando, Alias Jojo, Fernando Cruz, Reming Macaso, Alias Franklin, Enan Nagano, Eric Matias, Chito Cruz, Roland Labrador, Monte Javate
Tarlac: Bebot Roxas, Max Roxas
Zambales: Jose "Peping" Bildan
Angeles City: Mario Garcia
Olongapo City: Augusto "Aging" Lisan, Alias Eche Ponga

Bicol

Camarines Norte: Dante del Mundo
Camarines Sur: Hermie Herrera
Albay: Tony Ong
Sorsogon: Leony Lim

Southern Tagalog

Cavite: Gani Cupcupin
Quezon: Charing Magbuhos (STL front)

Cagayan Valley

Cagayan/Quirino: Danny Soriano
Isabela: Mike Borra

Ilocos

La Union/Abra: Ronald Singson
Pangasinan: Clyde Bermudez/Lito Medrona

SOURCE: PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

Townsfolk say illegal mining killing farms

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—RESIDENTS OF Narra, Palawan have complained of the continued operation of illegal large-scale mining companies in their area, which they blame for the destruction of their environment and the decline in *palay* production.

Through the newly formed multi-sector environment group, Kilusang Laban sa Mina sa Narra (KLMN), they denounced the government's inaction on illegal mining operations, particularly that of Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC).

The KLMN said farmers had been constantly complaining of the low yield of their farms ever since PGMC started mining operations in the area.

Eric Segismundo, one of the complaining farmers, said his lowland farms with an area of 1.2 hectares in Barangay San Isidro, Narra, only produces 47 cavans of *palay* now, much lower than the average yield of 100 cavans in the previous years prior to PGMC's mining activities.

He said 70 percent, or 37.1 cavans of palay, were lost due to "lateral siltation" brought about by PGMC's mining operations.

Laterite is a soil layer rich in iron oxide and sometimes aluminum, which forms in tropical and subtropical regions where the climate is humid.

When concentrated, laterite forms nodules as hard as concrete that tend to "eat up" or suppress the host soil. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

TransCo
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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : July 3, 2006
Loan No.: CALYON
Contract No.: Sp06.LTUP.Lw-0070

1. The *National Power Corporation (NPC)* has received a loan from the ***Buyer's Credit Facility arranged by CALYON through a Master Credit Arrangement*** for ***Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project 1*** and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract ***Furnishing, Delivery, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, its Associated Control & Protection For Dasmariñas Substation including Protection and Communication Equipment for Various Stations under Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project 1.***

   Plant and equipment to be supplied under the Contract shall have their origin from eligible source country of Calyon Buyer's Credit Facility only (United States, Austria, Belgium, England, Denmark, South Korea, Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland).
2. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Furnishing, Delivery, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, its Associated Control & Protection For Dasmariñas Substation including Protection and Communication Equipment for Various Stations under Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project 1.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the ***Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department****, Ground Floor, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No.: 981-2212, 981-2213, 981-4652; Telefax No.: 921-23-08.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting **July 7, 2006** upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Forty Thousand Pesos (PHP 40,000.00)***.
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Two Hundred Fifty Thousand US Dollars (US$ 250,000.00)

   The bid security must be included in the technical proposal.

   Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on **August 2, 2006**.

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on **September 1, 2006** at 1:30 P.M. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for the project is **365 calendar days.**
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government
11. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee at aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 7, 14 & 21, 2006)

Home Guaranty Corporation

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation located at the Manila Harbour Centre, Tondo, Manila are being offered for sale:

ITEM NO.	TCT NO.	BLOCK	LOT	AREA (SQM)	SELLING PRICE	LOCATION
1	233413	02	06	5,000.00	107,250,000.00	Industrial
2	233469	06	30	57.89	5,196,483.50	Shophouses
3	233457	06	18	176.14	3,720,957.50	Shophouses
4	233463	06	24	257.89	5,196,483.50	Shophouses
5	233464	06	25	257.89	5,196,483.50	Shophouses
6	233465	06	26	257.89	5,196,483.50	Shophouses
7	233474	07	02	2,259.83	47,738,908.75	Shophouses
8	233477	07	05	281.96	5,864,768.00	Shophouses
9	233489	08	10	304.25	6,526,162.50	Shophouses
10	233504	10	01	510.17	10,943,146.50	Shophouses
11	233513	10	10	300.00	6,045,000.00	Shophouses
12	233514	10	11	300.00	6,045,000.00	Shophouses
13	233515	10	12	1,886.25	41,073,093.75	Shophouses
14	233560	16	02	858.40	17,575,740.00	Port Bus. District
15	233561	16	03	1,455.40	29,799,315.00	Port Bus. District
16	233574	18	08	419.48	8,997,846.00	Port Bus. District
17	233575	18	09	419.48	8,997,846.00	Port Bus. District
18	233591	19	10	373.37	8,008,786.50	Port Bus. District
19	233594	19	13	373.37	8,008,786.50	Port Bus. District
20	233595	19	14	373.37	8,008,786.50	Port Bus. District
21	233408	02	01	5,142.00	113,638,200.00	Industrial Lots
22	233410	02	03	5,000.00	107,250,000.00	Industrial Lots
23	233421	03	03	18,608.00	374,951,200.00	Industrial Lots
24	233422	03	04	10,318.00	214,614,400.00	Industrial Lots
25	233438	05	02	564.47	11,557,523.25	CBD Transition Block
26	233441	06	02	257.89	5,531,740.50	Shophouses
27	233442	06	03	257.89	5,531,740.50	Shophouses
28	233443	06	04	257.89	5,531,740.50	Shophouses
29	233444	06	05	257.89	5,531,740.50	Shophouses
30	233445	06	06	257.89	5,531,740.50	Shophouses
31	233446	06	07	257.89	5,531,740.50	Shophouses
32	233447	06	08	257.89	5,531,740.50	Shophouses
33	233451	06	12	255.00	5,469,750.00	Shophouses
34	233452	06	13	255.00	5,469,750.00	Shophouses
35	233453	06	14	255.00	5,469,750.00	Shophouses
36	233454	06	15	255.00	5,469,750.00	Shophouses
37	233455	06	16	255.00	5,469,750.00	Shophouses
38	233456	06	17	210.31	4,579,500.25	Shophouses
39	233458	06	19	255.00	5,138,250.00	Shophouses
40	233459	06	20	255.00	5,138,250.00	Shophouses
41	233460	06	21	255.00	5,138,250.00	Shophouses
42	233461	06	22	255.00	5,138,250.00	Shophouses
43	233466	06	27	257.89	5,196,483.50	Shophouses
44	233467	06	28	257.89	5,196,483.50	Shophouses
45	233468	06	29	257.89	5,196,483.50	Shophouses
46	233473	07	01	560.14	12,015,003.00	Shophouses
47	233475	07	03	281.01	5,662,351.50	Shophouses
48	233476	07	04	255.00	5,138,250.00	Shophouses
49	233480	08	01	335.59	7,416,539.00	Shophouses
50	233481	08	02	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
51	233482	08	03	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
52	233483	08	04	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
53	233484	08	05	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
54	233485	08	06	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
55	233486	08	07	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
56	233487	08	08	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
57	233488	08	09	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
58	233490	08	11	427.08	9,438,468.00	Shophouses
59	233497	09	07	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
60	233498	09	08	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
61	233499	09	09	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
62	233500	09	10	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
63	233501	09	11	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
64	233502	09	12	300.00	6,435,000.00	Shophouses
65	233503	09	13	377.70	8,347,170.00	Shophouses
66	233505	10	02	582.59	12,496,555.50	Shophouses
67	233506	10	03	655.01	14,049,964.50	Shophouses
68	233509	10	06	255.00	5,469,750.00	Shophouses
69	233510	10	07	347.59	7,455,805.50	Shophouses
70	233511	10	08	325.30	6,554,795.00	Shophouses
71	233512	10	09	300.00	6,045,000.00	Shophouses
72	233563	17	01	3,319.70	70,128,662.50	Port Bus. District
73	233564	17	02	3,038.76	63,206,208.00	Port Bus. District
74	233577	18	11	419.48	8,997,846.00	Port Bus. District
75	233578	18	12	419.48	8,997,846.00	Port Bus. District
76	233590	19	09	373.37	8,008,786.50	Port Bus. District
77	233462	06	23	352.24	7,097,636.00	Shophouses
	TOTAL			77,864.75	1,630,810,922.00	

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(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS**
OIC, VICE PRESIDENT
PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ACQUIRED
ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI - July 21, 2006)

Rights group leader shot dead in Sorsogon

SORSOGON CITY—ANOTHER leader of a left-wing organization was shot dead Wednesday afternoon in Barangay San Antonio, Casiguran town, some 25 km from this city.

Police identified the victim as Danilo Hagosojos, a leader of the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Amnestiya (Selda) and an uncle of House Minority leader Francis Escudero and cousin of Vice Gov. Kruni Escudero.

Investigators said the 61-year-old victim had just come from the public market on a motorcycle after fetching his 7-year-old daughter from school.

The two were on their way home to Barangay Tigbao when waylaid by two unidentified assailants who were also on a motorcycle.

Casiguran police chief Senior Insp. Romualdo Pesonila said the victim, a former elementary school teacher and president of the Casiguran Public School Teachers' Association, suffered six gunshot wounds in the head and body and died on the spot.

His daughter was spared but was still in a state of shock, the police officer said.

The investigators could not establish the identity of the suspects as they were wearing bonnets when they ambushed Hagosojos.

Pesonila said they would try to talk to the daughter once she had already recovered from trauma.

An investigator, however, clarified that the incident was in no way related to the political involvement of the victims' relatives, the Escuderos, who are known critics of the Arroyo administration.

Dondon Hagosojos, son of the victim, told the INQUIRER that his father had no known enemy in their town and had never been involved in any atrocity.

"Since his retirement as a public school teacher he had devoted his time to farming," he said.

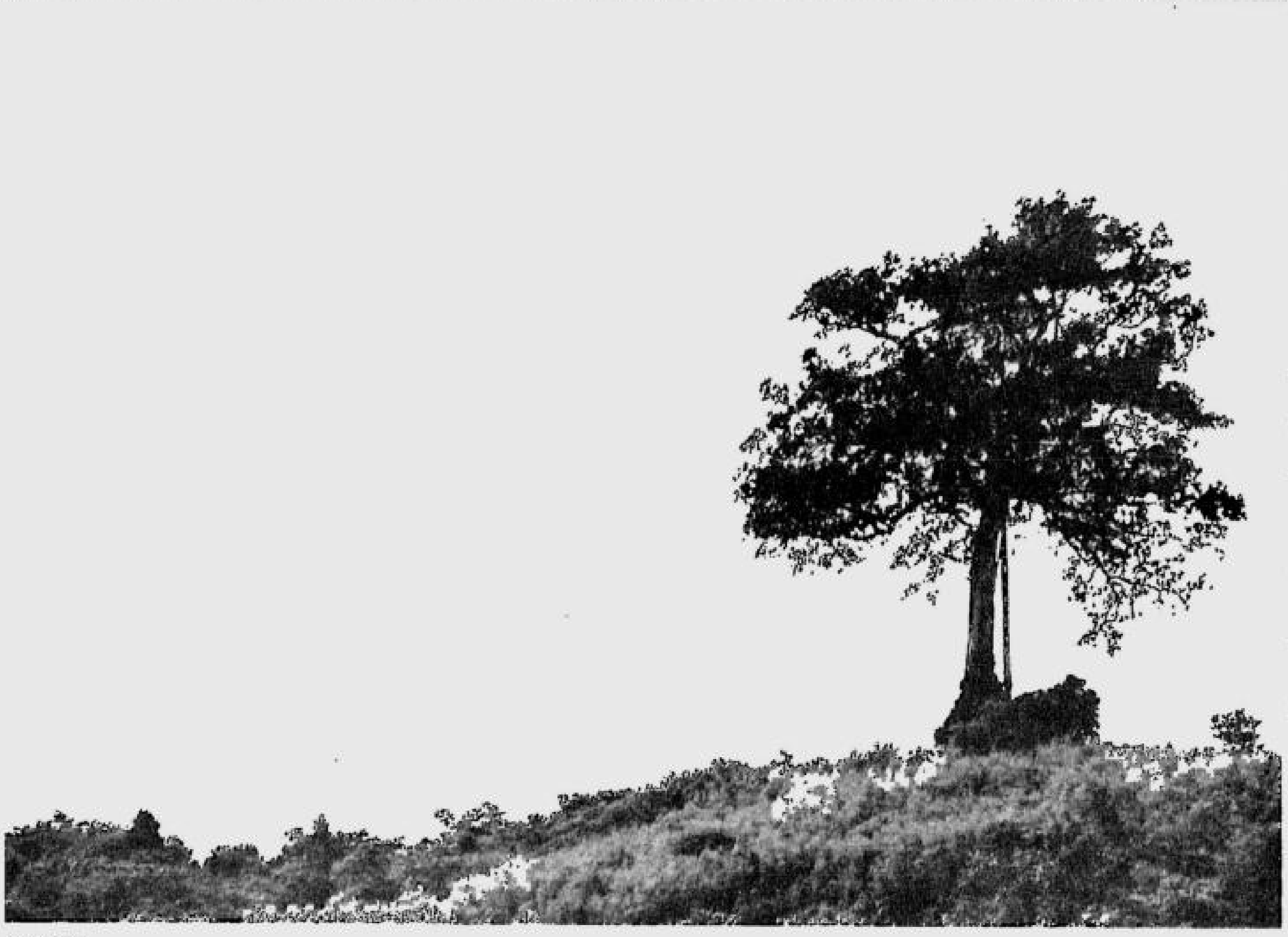
He appealed to the authorities to look deeply into the killing of his father.

Dondon said they were verifying reports that the motorcycle of his father, which was taken by the assailants, was seen near a detachment in nearby Barangay Casay.

Human rights group Karapatan condemned the killing, saying Hagosojos was the 30th victim of state-sponsored violence in the province.

Lt. Col. Benigno Antonio, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Batallion, which has jurisdiction over Sorsogon, denied the military had a hand in the rash of killings in the province.

Gov. Raul Lee called the mayors, the provincial director of the Philippine National Police and Antonio to a meeting to discuss the peace and order situation in the province. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

SIGHT
A tree appears to be by its lonesome on a mountain in Jordan, Guimaras. It has become one of the attractions for tourism in the province.

Manila Water

Temporary water interruption in portions of Quezon City, Cainta and Taytay needed to upgrade facilities

Manila Water is currently upgrading its facilities and fine-tuning the network to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. We regret that we will have to temporarily interrupt water supply in portions of Quezon City, Cainta and Taytay starting 10:00 p.m., Saturday, July 22, 2006, up to 4:00 a.m., Sunday, July 23, due to the valve replacement in Quezon City and interconnection of mainlines along Ortigas Extension near Bajo Bridge in Cainta. The following areas will be affected: Agham Road, Quezon City; Bgy. San Juan, Cainta and Bgys. San Isidro, Dolores, Sto. Domingo and Sta. Ana, all in Taytay.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

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(PDI – July 21, 2006)

Woman peasant leader fights for life after Isabela attack

ECHAGUE, ISABELA—A LEADER OF A FARMers' group and Bayan Muna official here is fighting for her life after two motorcycle-riding gunmen shot her thrice yesterday in front of the Isabela State University-Echague main campus in Barangay San Fabian, police said.

Madonna Castillo, 32, secretary general of the Anakpawis-Isabela and Danggayan Dagiti Mannalon iti Isabela-Echague municipal chapter, is the fourth militant leader shot in Isabela this year.

Castillo, also secretary general of Bayan Muna in Isabela, was about to attend her classes at the ISU when the two men attacked her at 7 a.m.

She took three bullets in the abdomen and thighs while her companion, Maricris Valdez, was unhurt, police said.

Senior Supt. Jude Santos, Isabela police director, said a .45 cal. pistol was used in the attack.

Castillo was transferred from Manango Hospital here to the Faustino Dy Sr. Memorial Hospital in Ilagan town for operation.

Militant groups here suspected the military to be involved in the shooting.

Castillo had condemned the Army's 502nd Brigade for alleged human rights abuses and graft, among other things.

On May 10 this year, Elena Mendiola, Bayan Muna-Cagayan Valley vice chair, and her live-in partner Ricardo Balauag, Bayan Muna town coordinator, were killed by armed men in Barangay Garit Sur here.

A month later, Rafael Marcus Bangit, Bayan Muna-Kalinga vice chair, was killed by gunmen in Barangay Quezon in San Isidro town.

Leftist groups blamed Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan for the killings.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas vowed to block the plan of Palparan to extend his stint in the military or take any government position after his mandatory retirement on Sept. 11.

"He wants to nationalize his murder spree and kill all those who oppose Gloria (President Macapagal-Arroyo)," KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said in a statement here yesterday.

Ramos was referring to the trail of killings, abductions and other human rights atrocities attributed by leftist groups to Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Activists have come to call him "butcher" for nearly 500 killings and attacks during his assignment since 1985 as commander of the 24th Infantry Battalion in Central Luzon, 8th ID in Samar and Leyte, 204th Infantry Brigade in Mindoro and Romblon, and of late, 7th ID in Central Luzon.

"Under his watch, hundreds have already been killed… we will not allow it that he would do the same to the whole country," Ramos said, adding that the general has targeted unarmed activists and civilians rather than New People's Army rebels. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bataan sect head shot dead; cops eye family feud

HERMOSA, BATAAN—A LEADER OF A SECT in the province was shot dead on Thursday night while he watched TV in his bedroom in Barangay Sacrifice Valley here, police said.

Police identified the fatality as Jose Benjamin Teruel, 63, administrator and leader of Church of the Most Holy Trinity sect.

Police said a lone gunman climbed the grilled window of the room and shot Teruel, who was watching TV. His wife, Cora, who was also in the room, was not hurt.

The victim was the older brother of John Florentine Teruel, founding bishop of a religious sect, Apostolic Catholic Church, based in Quezon City.

Investigators said they were looking into personal grudge as motive of the killing.

Residents said a feud among the Teruel siblings erupted when their mother, known as Sister Virginia Leonzon Teruel, died in May 2005.

Since then, the eight Teruel siblings separated ways and began to exchange accusations and harbor personal grudges. This prompted John Florentine to establish the Apostolic Catholic Church.

Residents in the 25-hectare Sacrifice Valley were affected by the feud. Some of them joined the Apostolic Catholic Church of John Teruel while others stayed with Jose Benjamin.

The victim's wife, who is a village official here, said her husband had received death threats but had ignored them. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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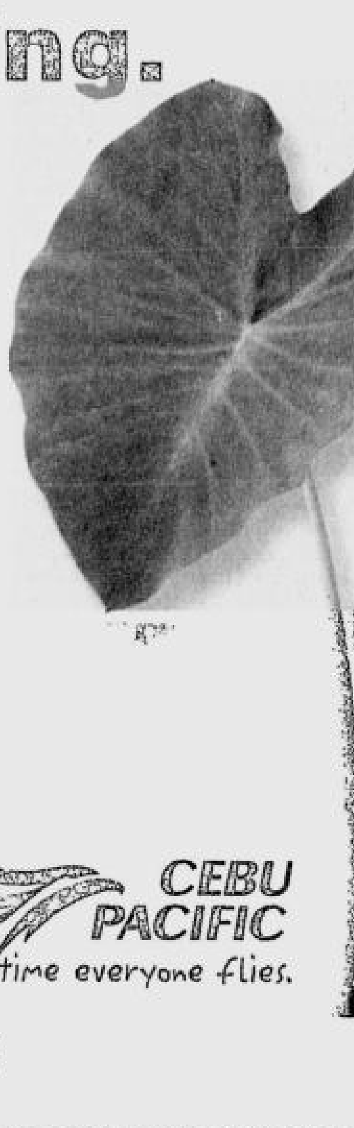

Truck carrying farmers rolls off road; 15 die

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—FIFTEEN farmers were killed early yesterday and 22 others were injured in La Libertad, Negros Oriental when a truck that they hitched a ride in overturned on a steep road in Barangay Guihob, about 15 km from the highway.

The 10-wheel truck, owned by the municipal government of La Libertad town (about 100 km from Dumaguete City) was taking the farmers to the town with their produce for market day, according to La Libertad Mayor Josie Sy-Limkaichiong.

Limkaichiong, quoting municipal personnel she sent to the site to help in the rescue operation, said most of the 15 fatalities died at the accident site.

The truck driver, whom passengers identified as Bordet Menoy, survived the accident. Some of the survivors believed Menoy lost control of the truck because of faulty brakes.

"We were going very fast," recalled passenger Cecil Gabutero, 22, a resident of Barangay Cansumandig, who was among the injured passengers being treated at a hospital here.

"As we were going downhill, the truck started to list to the right and soon, the truck was upside down, throwing most of the passengers in a grassy lot," Gabutero said.

She said she lost consciousness. "When I woke up, I was lying among the dead," she said in an interview at the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital (NOPH).

She escaped with a minor head wound but her mother, Editha, 43, was admitted for treatment of head wounds and other injuries.

Tonton Dejaresco, the driver of another municipal-owned truck, which was traveling a few meters ahead of the ill-fated vehicle, told the INQUIRER that he believed faulty brakes caused the accident.

"Bordet had earlier told me that he felt his brakes were not working properly so I advised him to just take it easy. But he appeared to be traveling too fast behind me," Dejaresco said.

He said when he looked back, he saw Bordet's truck scrape an electric post, producing a spark. That was when the truck overturned.

Dejaresco said that when they stopped to bring the victims to the hospital, he counted nine dead at the scene. Three others died on the way to the district hospital in nearby Guihulngan town.

Limkaichiong later confirmed that 15 were killed in the accident while 22 were injured. The mayor, who learned of the news while in Dumaguete City, rushed to La Libertad and sent Vice Mayor Gualberto Laporna and the town's personnel to Barangay Guihob to investigate and help the victims.

"At this point, we still cannot determine exactly what caused the accident. There are many possibilities. For one, the rains may have made the road slippery, the vehicle may have malfunctioned or the driver may have fallen asleep as it was very early in the morning," she said in a telephone interview.

Nine of the victims who suffered fractures were rushed to the NOPH while the other injured farmers were being treated at the Guihulngan District Hospital. Their names were not immediately available.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

BELONGINGS
A homeless woman sits beside her worldly possessions—a vegetable basket filled with what many would consider trash—at the post office of Jaro District in Iloilo City.

12 NPA rebs slain in clashes, says Army

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—AT LEAST 12 NEW People's Army (NPA) rebels have been killed in a series of clashes since July 13 in Columbio town in Sultan Kudarat and the towns of Matanao and Kiblawan in Davao del Sur, the military said.

Brig. Gen. Alfredo Cayton, 601st Army Brigade commander, said four government soldiers were wounded in the encounters.

Cayton, who was supervising the military offensives from the tactical command post of the 601st Army Brigade in Asbang, Matanao, said the soldiers launched the offensives after NPA rebels attacked a military detachment in the area.

Government soldiers repulsed the guerrillas after a two-hour gunfight.

Cayton said he sent soldiers from the 66th, 27th and 25th Infantry Battalions and the 1st Division Reconnaissance Company on July 13 to scour the hinterlands of Columbio, Matanao and Kiblawan, areas known as rebel strongholds.

After three days of operation, the government troopers figured in two successive encounters with 40 communist rebels under Catalino Tacadao alias Asyo, the alleged secretary of the NPA's Far South Mindanao Region Committee.

Another armed encounter occurred on July 17 between soldiers of the 27th IB and about 40 NPA rebels under commander Tirso of Guerrilla Front Committee 74 in Sitio Alpo, Abnate in Kiblawan. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Naia tax-exempt, SC rules

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY struck down the bid of the Parañaque government to collect P624.5 million in taxes from the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), saying that all the buildings and properties of Naia 1, Naia 2 and the Manila Domestic Airport were government property and therefore tax-exempt.

"Properties of public dominion, being for public use, are not subject to levy, encumbrance or disposition through public or private sale. Any encumbrance, levy on execution or auction sale of any property of public dominion is void for being contrary to public policy," the court said in an en banc decision.

The decision, penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, declared void the P624.5 tax assessment issued by the Parañaque government for the years 1992 to 2001.

The high court also nullified the auction sale of the airport lands and buildings by the Parañaque government on Feb. 7, 2003.

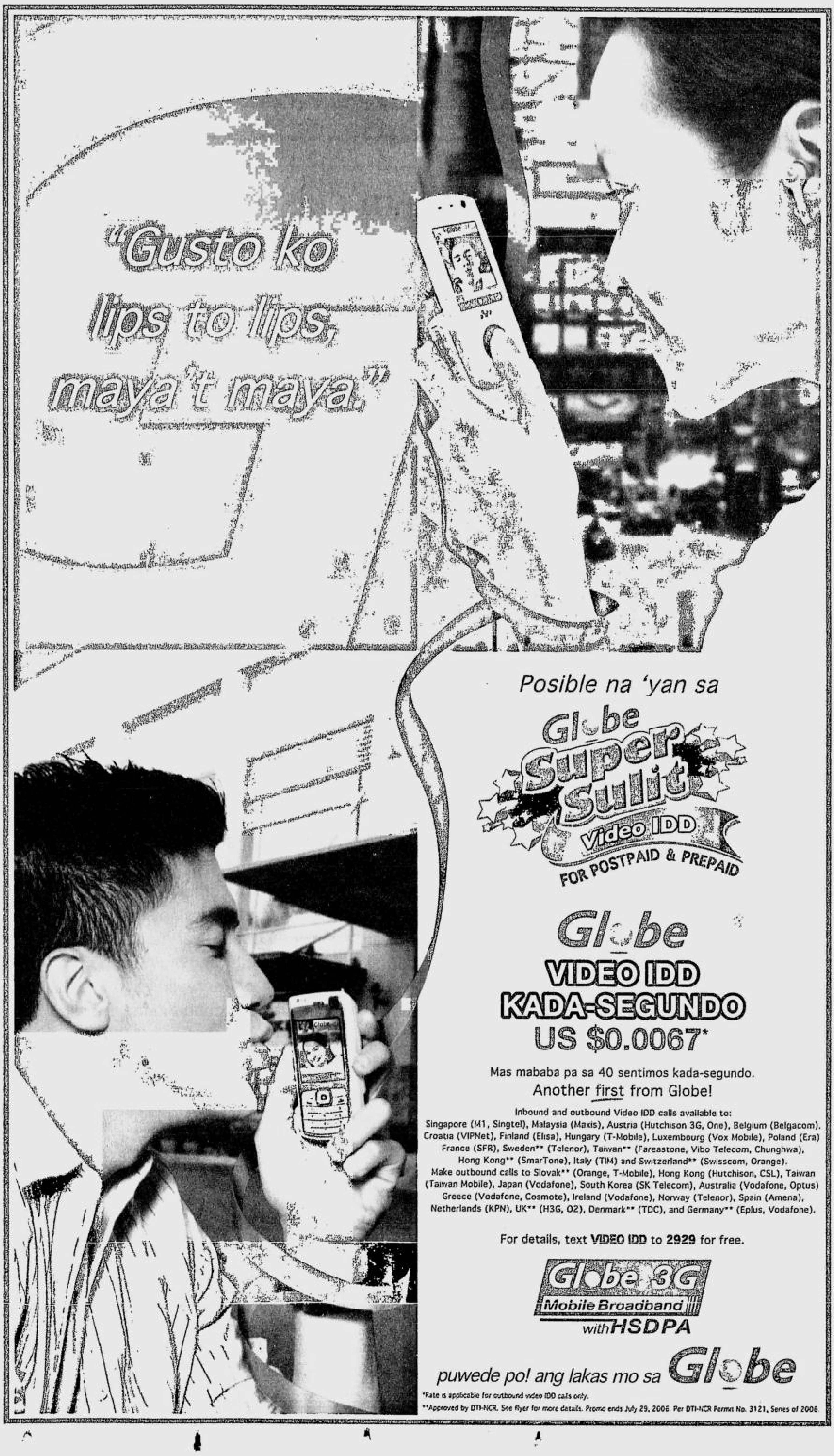
The Supreme Court in effect reversed a Court of Appeals decision of Oct. 5, 2001 denying a Miaa petition to restrain the Parañaque government from imposing real estate taxes on, levying against, and auctioning for, public sale the property in question.

"There is no point in national and local governments taxing each other unless a sound and compelling policy requires such transfer of public funds from one government pocket to another," the high tribunal said.

"There is also no reason for local governments to tax national government instrumentalities for rendering essential public services to inhabitants of local governments," it added.

The SC threw out the argument of the Parañaque government that the Miaa cannot claim that the airport lands and buildings were exempt from real estate taxes since Section 193 of the Local Government Code had withdrawn the tax-exempt privileges of government-owned and -controlled corporations.

"There is no dispute that a government-owned or -controlled corporation is not exempt from real estate tax. However, Miaa is not a government-owned or -controlled corporation," the high court said.



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MAYON by night is a spectacular show of lava flow.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Ash clouds send Mayon folk to panic

By Ephraim Aguilar
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

STO. DOMINGO, ALBAY—MUSHROOM-shaped ash clouds which winds sent northeast toward this town at about 8 a.m. yesterday caused residents of the villages of Lidong and San Isidro here to panic and led to the voluntary evacuation of around 100 residents.

Romeo Cabria, Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council action officer, said the residents were first taken to the town's gymnasium but the local government was planning to send them back home as the alert level had not been raised from 3.

Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) senior science research specialist Eduardo Laguerta said what happened was a "collapse-type" of pyroclastic flow which caused the ash clouds.

He said lava "chunks" that had cooled and solidified earlier had broken off after more lava flowed from Mayon's crater. This generated the ash clouds without there necessarily having been an explosion.

"It was not yet the major blast. The ash clouds did not come from the crater but from the lava fragments that collapsed downslope," Laguerta said.

No evacuation yet

Jukes Nuñez of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council plans and operations division said no evacuation was ordered since the alert level remained at 3 of the 5-level warning system.

He said, however, that classes were suspended in Lidong and San Isidro because of the ashfall.

The 2,474-meter Mt. Mayon, meanwhile, continued to spew lava.

Tremor episodes increased to 404 in the past 24 hours from 250, which Phivolcs said could be associated with increasing lava extrusion, rockfalls and detaching lava fragments occurring within the 6-km permanent danger zone.

Sulfur dioxide emissions, which Laguerta said was one of the indicators of magma coming to the surface, were relatively higher yesterday than the normal level of 1,863 tons per day.

Farmer Eladio Echaluce, 85, said he was working in his field on the volcano's southeastern slope when he heard a shout and saw someone pointing to a cloud of ash, The Associated Press reported.

"When I saw the cloud, I got scared and came down," he said.

Another farmer, Loreto Aydaya, also rushed down carrying a sack of vegetables and leading his two water buffalo.

"I was scared because I was about a kilometer away," he said.

Schoolteacher Jenny Perez said parents rushed to the Matanag Elementary School to get their children.

"I could not do anything, so I just dismissed my class," she said.

Other residents packed their bags and kitchen utensils and waited on the roadside or inside their homes for village officials' signal to evacuate.

With an AP report

A plus METRO
Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**
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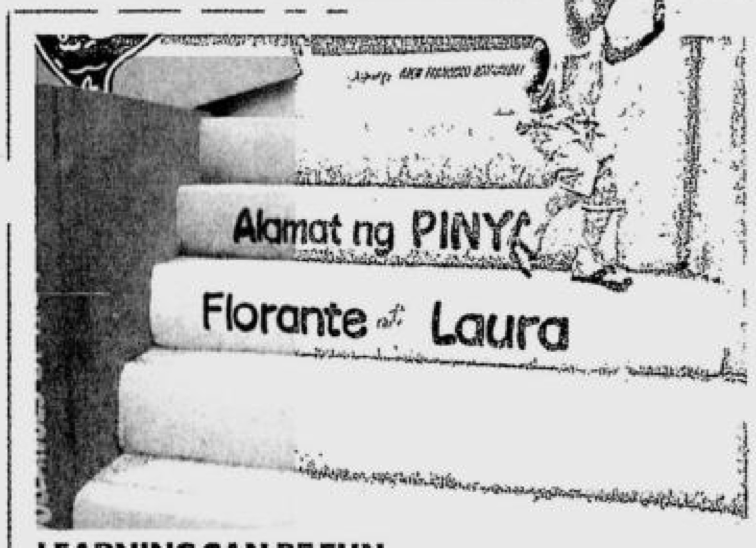

LEARNING CAN BE FUN
A boy spends a lazy afternoon playing on top of "books," steps actually, at the playground of the Quezon Memorial Circle. RAFFY LERMA

Unleaded gas spills into Pasig City canals

By Blanche S. Rivera and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AN OIL SPILL EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING released unleaded gas into Pasig's canals, a few meters away from the biggest and busiest public market in the city.

City officials ordered an immediate cleanup to prevent a fire.

The gas station is near the Mutya ng Pasig Public Market.

Some 500 liters of unleaded gas were released after the storage tank of the Sea Oil refueling station on Market Avenue, Paltiw in Pasig City overflowed while a tanker was transferring fuel.

Operations at the refueling station were suspended by the city government until the cleanup was completed.

The incident occurred only four days after an oil spill at the Pandacan fuel depot.

"The (Sea Oil) storage tank, with a capacity of 7,000 liters, was not big enough to accommodate the fuel that was being transferred," the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) said yesterday in its initial report.

Transfer

The storage tank reportedly was already filled when the tanker tried to transfer its load of 6,000 liters, thus causing the spill.

FO1 Salvador Norberte said the driver quickly shut down the tanker, but more than 500 liters of unleaded gasoline had already spilled from the container.

The Pasig City Bureau of Fire and Safety ordered the immediate cleanup of the drainage canals.

Around 200 liters of gasoline mixed with water had been recovered so far by the Sea Oil cleanup crew.

"The immediate concern is to recover the remaining spilled fuel and prevent it from further flowing into the canals," the LLDA said.

The LLDA, which issues environmental permits for development projects in Metro Manila, said Sea Oil did not have an LLDA clearance required for operating the refueling station.

In view of this, the LLDA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued a notice of violation to the gas station.

Police find another suspected shabu lab in Parañaque City

Owner had no PDEA clearance to store chemicals

By Jocelyn C. Uy

THE PARAÑAQUE POLICE HAVE stumbled into another suspected illegal drugs facility four days after a raid on a suspected shabu warehouse in the city.

About 50 gallons of sulfuric acid and ethanol were found before noon yesterday inside the Jam Seafoods Inc. on 7974 Santan Road in Baltao Subdivision, Barangay Vitalez, according to city police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles.

The police and the city's Business Permit and Licensing Office began inspecting compounds and depots in the city after chemicals that could produce "millions of pesos worth" of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu were found Sunday evening in a seafood warehouse in Mayuga Compound, Barangay Tambo.

The Jam Seafoods Inc., a tuna exporter, was registered but its owner, Samuel Garcia, did not have any clearance from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency for storing the chemicals in the warehouse, Estilles said.

The police official said that since the chemicals were main components in the manufacture of shabu, possession of the substances without a PDEA clearance was a violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Garcia told police that the chemicals were used to preserve *bangus* or milk fish. But the police discovered a suspected "mini laboratory," about 36 square meters in size, behind the company's offices near a creek where a distillery was allegedly set up.

Beakers, test tubes and a burner were found inside the small structure, Estilles said. "The owner could be charged with illegal possession of the chemicals," the police official added, if there was sufficient evidence to pin him down.

The city government had announced early this week it would keep an eye on compounds, warehouses, forwarding companies and stockrooms, apart from subdivisions, to prevent the entry of illegal drugs.

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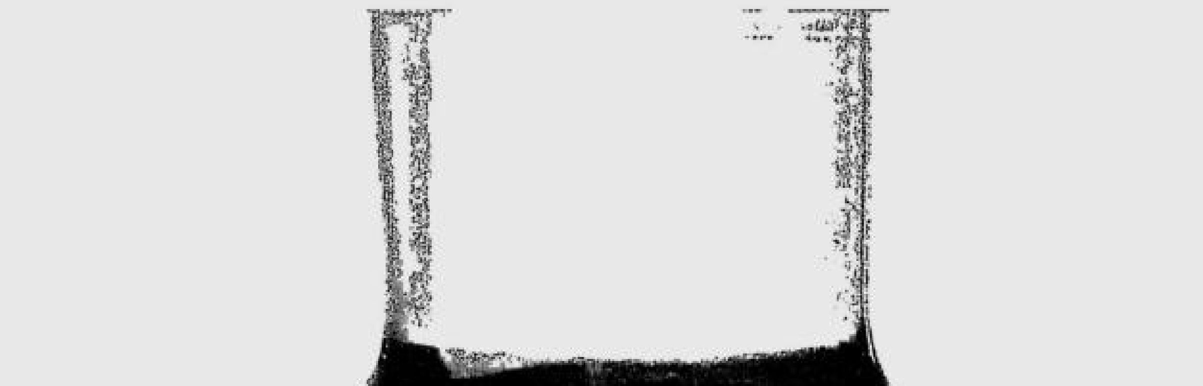

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DRINK MODERATELY

Restaurant manager killed before reaching his home

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE ARE PUZZLED OVER THE killing of a restaurant manager who was shot five times before he got to his home in Mandaluyong City early yesterday.

Witness Bernard Pantua, 31, was standing in front of his house in Barangay Barangka about 4:30 a.m. when he suddenly heard at least three gunshots.

Seconds later, he saw Romeo Cruz, 38, running alone in the street, blood all over his body.

"*Tulungan niyo ako. Mayroong gustong kumuha ng aking kotse. Nanakawan ako* (Help me. Someone is stealing my car. Someone robbed me)," Pantua quoted Cruz as saying in Filipino.

But Pantua said he did not see anyone running after Cruz, who police later learned had worked as manager for Dad's Restaurant at the Glorietta Mall in Makati City.

Gunshots

Cruz's wife told the police she was inside their house on Simeon Cruz Street waiting for her husband to come home.

She heard him close the door of his car, a red Toyota Corolla, that he had apparently parked outside their house when she suddenly heard gunshots.

Outside, she saw her husband in the middle of the road. He was already bleeding, she noted.

Police said Cruz sought help from his friend Gil Abrasaldo, whose house was just a few meters away.

By the time Cruz' wife got near him, the victim had already fallen on the pavement in front of Abrasaldo's house.

The two brought Cruz to the Victor Ponciano Medical Center, but he died while undergoing treatment.

Police are looking at robbery as a motive for the shooting. The robbers could have panicked when he resisted and shot him with a 9 mm handgun, based on the recovered slugs and spent shells, police said.

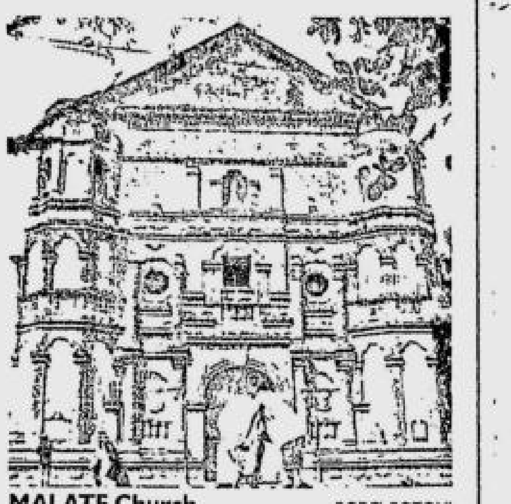
Puzzle

But what they found puzzling was Cruz's car was still parked in the alley near his house. Only the ignition key was missing.

Mandaluyong City Police chief Supt. Ericson Velasquez said it was also possible the attackers had waited for the victim in with the intent to kill him.

"We are looking at all possible angles," Velasquez said.

DID YOU KNOW



MALATE Church RODEL ROTONI

MALATE used to be called "Maalat" (salty) because of the seawater swampland in the area, where a shrine to the Virgin was built by Augustinians in 1598. Maalat's first residents were into fishing and salt-making. The name Malate came about as a result of the mispronunciation of the word by Spanish-speaking townsfolk. *Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

Parents sue kid's teacher

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A GRADE II PUPIL OF SUCAT ELEMENTARY School died Wednesday, five days after her teacher allegedly banged her head against her classmate's, police said yesterday.

Initial investigation found that eight-year-old Ma. Jessalyn Palma was brought to the Ospital ng Muntinlupa the other day after her she was observed to have vomiting spells.

Doctors said Palma died of internal hemorrhage.

In his report, Supt. Jose Mario Espino, city police chief, said the Esperanza Balderes, 62, allegedly banged the girls' heads in exasperation because they were naughty and stubborn.

Balderes, who is retiring in September, voluntarily surrendered yesterday morning to Barangay Chair Rafael Sevilla, Muntinlupa schools superintendent Dr. Fe Faz, and school principal Dr. Herminia Arancillo, according to Tez Valencia, public information office head.

Mayor Jaime Fresnedi ordered a thorough investigation of the incident and said appropriate administrative and criminal charges would be filed against Balderes if there was sufficient evidence against her.

Palma's body was brought to the Eastern Funeral Homes in Alabang for an autopsy.

The girl's parents later filed a case for reckless imprudence resulting in homicide against the teacher. Last March, a Grade II student of the Silangan Elementary School in Taguig City died a week after her teacher allegedly forced her to swallow pencil shavings.

METROBRIEFS

Just on leave or relieved?

WHAT really happened to Makati police chief Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio? For a disappointed Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, his police chief was replaced because of politics; for Valerio's superiors, he simply took a break. News about Valerio's alleged relief spread like wildfire yesterday morning, a surprise that City Hall linked to the Makati Police Station's enforcement of an arrest order against Roberto Brillante. Binay's staunch political rival. Brillante was arrested Wednesday morning by operatives of the Makati Police Warrant Section on orders of a Makati court which found the former city official guilty of making libelous remarks against the mayor in a radio broadcast back in September 1995. "The police chief is a victim of the kind of vindictive politics that Malacañang plays. We know that the relief came after Brillante pulled a few strings in Malacañang," said Binay in a statement yesterday. But newly-installed SPD chief Senior Supt. Ricardo Padilla said Valerio just took an emergency leave and denied that he ordered the police chief sacked. Makati police officer-in-charge Supt. Felipe Napoles Jr. said he received an order to take over Valerio's duties yesterday afternoon. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

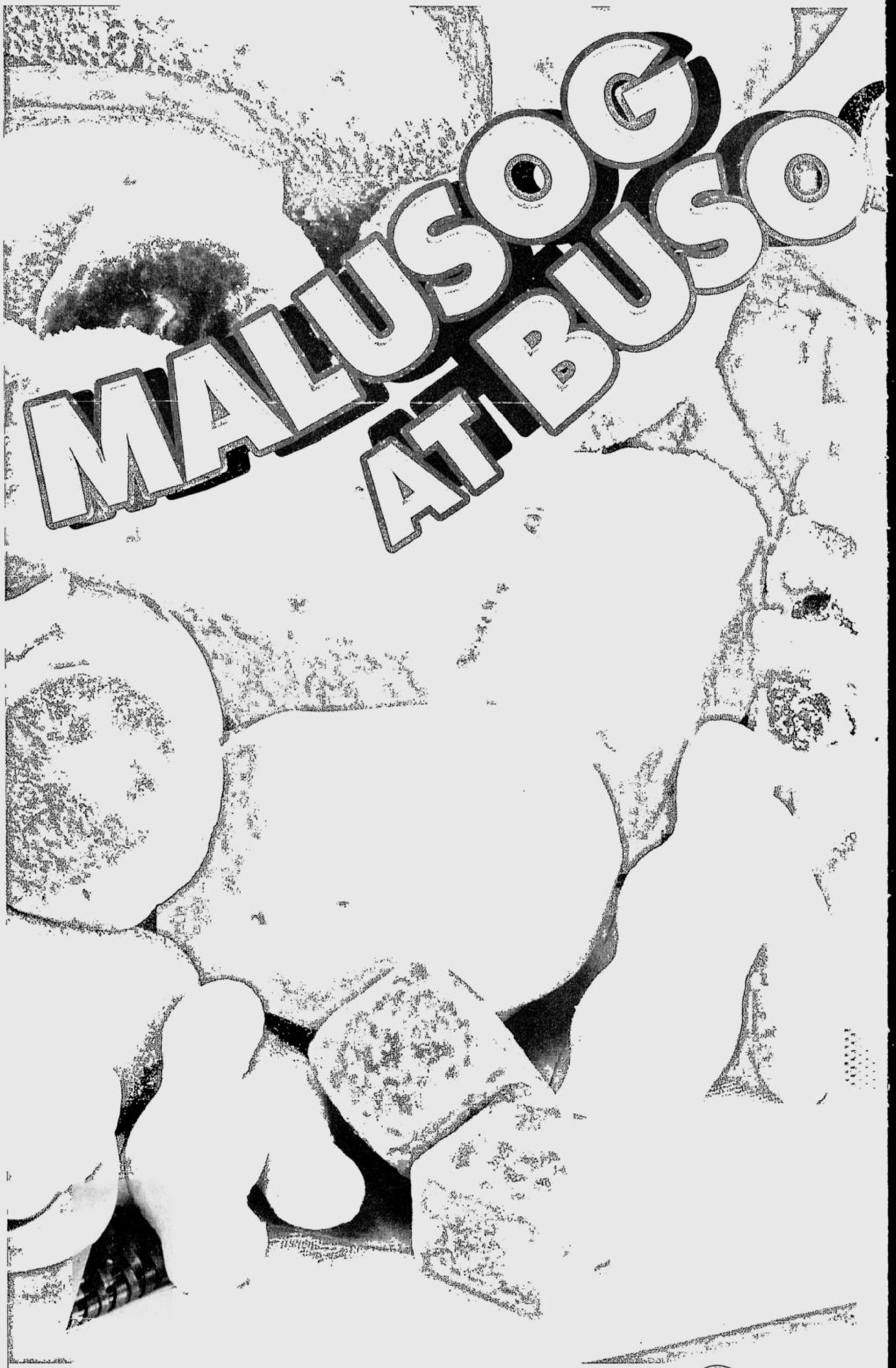
Down with streamers

MERRY CHRISTMAS
SA HULYO?

STREAMERS with "Happy Fiesta!" greetings still on display months after the festivity, or banners congratulating new graduates in the middle of December may soon be a thing of the past in Quezon City. A proposed ordinance has been filed in the city requiring groups or individuals to take down posters, streamers and banners that bear seasonal greetings or announcements one month after the occasion had passed. According to the proposed measure introduced by councilors Edcel Lagman Jr. and Jorge Banal Jr., such streamers or posters shall be removed within a month from the time they were first displayed as these were eyesores. *DJ Yap*

Help Juvy

THE FAMILY of 4-year-old Juvy Garbosom of 372 Nicolas St., San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal needs your help. The child, who was diagnosed with Naseothmoidal meningocoele, needs an operation soon. Her medicines alone cost her family over P4,500 a day. Those who would like to help Juvy can call Mansueto Garboso at 0906-4607851.



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Bush vetoes stem cell research

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT BUSH ON Wednesday rejected legislation to expand federally supported embryonic stem cell research, exercising his veto power for the first time.

By defying the Republican-controlled Congress, which had sent him legislation that would have overturned research restrictions he imposed five years ago, Bush reinserted himself forcefully into a moral, scientific and political debate in which Republicans are increasingly finding common ground with Democrats.

The president laid out his reasoning in a written message to the House of Representatives, then announced his decision in the East Room of the White House, surrounded by babies born through in vitro fertilization using so-called adopted embryos.

As the infants fidgeted in their parents' arms, Bush said the bill violated his principles on the sanctity of human life by encouraging the destruction of embryos left over from fertilization procedures.

"I felt like crossing this line would be a mistake, and once crossed we would find it almost impossible to turn back," Bush said. "Crossing the line would needlessly encourage a conflict between science and ethics that can only do damage to both, and to our nation as a whole."

Until Wednesday, Bush was among just seven presidents who had never vetoed a piece of legislation. Four served only partial terms; the other three were John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams.

Within hours of the East Room ceremony, the House hurriedly took up a measure to override the veto, but the vote, 235-193, fell short of the two-thirds majority required. The vote put an end to the bill's prospects for the year, but not to the stem-cell debate.

"This is not some wedge issue; this is the soul of America," said Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., who sponsored the bill Bush vetoed. "And this is a colossal mistake on the part of the president."

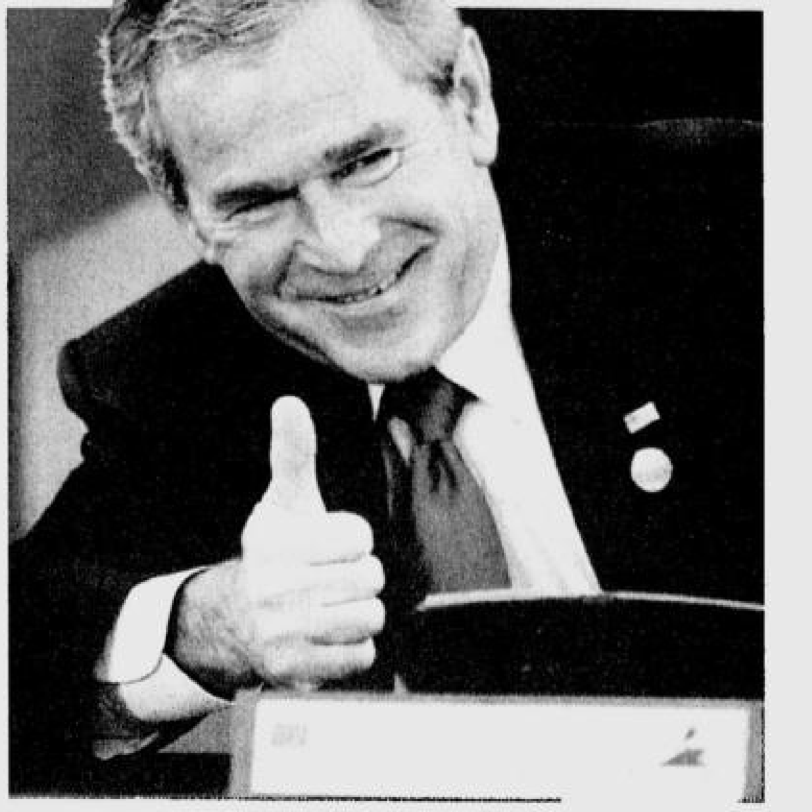
But beyond the principles involved, the White House had clearly calculated that it would have been more of a political mistake to sign the bill.

Social conservatives, the heart of Bush's base, had demanded that the president keep his promise to veto any measure that altered the careful compromise he articulated on Aug. 9, 2001, restricting government-financed stem-cell research to existing colonies.

"This is a profound moral issue," said Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., after the White House ceremony. "The issue is whether or not it is morally right to use the taxpayer dollars of millions of pro-life Americans who find this research morally objectionable."

Yet the ground is shifting in the debate, and even Pence conceded that opponents of the research were "losing the argument with the American people."

The bill Bush vetoed would have allowed taxpayer-financed research on lines derived from embryos slated for destruction by fertility clinics. *NYT*



BUSH AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Aid efforts cranked up after Indonesia tsunami

PANGANDARAN, INDONESIA—Aid efforts cranked into higher gear to assist Indonesian tsunami survivors Thursday, a day after another tsunami alert triggered panic on the main island of Java. Search and rescue helicopters hovered along the battered coast of this small resort town, which bore the brunt of fury unleashed by Monday afternoon's tsunami along a 200-km stretch of Java's south coast. Indonesia's National Disaster Management Coordinating Agency said at least 528 lives had been claimed in the disaster, with 275 left missing. More than 50,500 have been displaced, it said. Nerves remain frayed after panicked residents rushed to higher ground on Wednesday, when rumors swirled of another impending wall of water. Separately, Indonesian residents on Java's western coast and Sumatra's south coast were told to be on alert Wednesday evening after a 6.2-magnitude quake struck under the Sunda Strait between the two islands. *AFP*

Taiwan holds largest military exercise

ILAN, TAIWAN—Patriot missiles streaked across the light-blue Asian sky and F-16s bombarded ships Thursday as Taiwan beat back a simulated Chinese invasion in the island's largest-ever military exercise. The "Hankuang" or "Chinese Glory" maneuvers are meant to test Taiwan's ability to muster its army, navy, air force and marines against the forces of its longtime rival mainland China, just 160 km to the west, across the volatile Taiwan Strait. China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949, and Beijing remains committed to bringing the self-governing island back into its fold—possibly in just the sort of Normandy-style beach-landing invasion that this year's Hankuang exercises simulated. The drills followed Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian's decision earlier this year to scrap a government body responsible for the island's eventual unification with the mainland. *AP*

Hirohito shunned shrine over war criminals

TOKYO—Emperor Hirohito, in whose name Japanese soldiers fought in World War Two, stopped visiting a shrine for war dead because he was displeased that wartime leaders convicted as war criminals were honored there as of 1978, a newspaper reported on Thursday, citing a memo by a former courtier. Japan's ties with China and South Korea have chilled since Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi took office in 2001 and began visiting Yasukuni Shrine, where World War Two leaders convicted as war criminals by an Allied tribunal are honored along with the nation's 2.5 million war dead. The shrine is seen by critics at home and abroad as a symbol of Japan's past militarism. Speculation is simmering that Koizumi—who says he goes to pray for peace—may pay his respects there this year on Aug. 15, the emotive anniversary of Japan's surrender in 1945. *Reuters*

Sex during late pregnancy could aid delivery

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—Having sex late in pregnancy could help some women deliver without the need to artificially induce labor, according to a research report by Malaysian doctors. A study of 200 healthy, married Malaysian women indicated that those who have intercourse late in their pregnancies were more likely than women who didn't to deliver at 38-40 weeks of pregnancy, said Dr. Tan Peng Chiong, an obstetrics and gynecology lecturer at the University of Malaya. A full-term pregnancy is 38-42 weeks. "We found that the women who had sex go into labor slightly earlier," Tan said. "Anecdotally, many people feel that sexual intercourse has an effect on promoting labor." *AP*

Heat wave hits Europe

LONDON—European Governments scrambled to save lives in record high temperatures on Wednesday to avoid a repeat of the catastrophic heatwave of 2003 that killed 15,000 people in France and 2,000 in Britain. In Britain, temperatures hit an all-time high for the month of July, touching 36.3 degrees Centigrade (97.34 Fahrenheit) south of London to edge out the previous record set in 1911. Germany's national meteorological service said July was on the way to being the hottest since records began in many parts of the country. In France, an 85-year-old man admitted to hospital and an 81-year-old woman found dead in her home were the first people believed to have died there because of the heat. Officials said nine people were believed to have died. Britain launched an emergency plan of extra visits to the elderly and vulnerable. British bookmakers stopped taking bets temperatures would soar above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.77C) for only the second time—the first was in August 2003. *Reuters*

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DEADLIEST DAY OF CONFLICT

72 killed, 20 tons of bombs dropped in Lebanon

A LEBANESE woman shouts anti-Israeli slogans in front of a mosque in Beirut that was destroyed by Israeli warplanes July 20. AP

BEIRUT—ISRAELI TROOPS BATTLED LEBANESE GUERRILLAS and warplanes bombed a suspected Hezbollah bunker Thursday as Lebanon issued a desperate plea for international help after the bloodiest day of the conflict.

Concerns mounted over the humanitarian crisis, with the United Nations warning of an impending "catastrophe" as Israel's relentless campaign to crush the Shiite Muslim Hezbollah killed 72 people on Wednesday, the highest single-day death toll since the offensive was launched nine days ago.

Thousands of terrified foreigners, mainly Westerners, were being evacuated by sea from Beirut to the neighboring Mediterranean island of Cyprus, fleeing an offensive that has now killed 327 people in Lebanon and displaced an estimated half a million others.

As Israeli warplanes swung into action over south Beirut, dropping 20 tons of bombs on a suspected Hezbollah leadership bunker, ground troops were locked in fierce fighting with guerrillas after launching a new cross-border raid.

"There is intense fighting along the border inside Lebanese territory," said Milos Strugar, spokesperson for the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

Hezbollah claimed it had destroyed two tanks while Israeli television reported two soldiers had been injured.

Target for liquidation

Israel said 20 war planes had bombed what it believed to be a Hezbollah leadership bunker in the guerrilla group's southern Beirut stronghold but the militant group denied any of its members had been killed and said the building hit was a mosque.

Israel has made no secret of its desire to "liquidate" Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah and has already launched air raids destroying his offices and residence during its blistering nine-day campaign.

"The country has been torn to shreds. Can the international community stand by while such callous retribution by the state of Israel is inflicted on us?" Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora told a gathering foreign ambassadors.

"You want to support the government of Lebanon? Let me tell you ... no government can survive on the ruins of a nation," he said. "I hope you will not let us down. We the Lebanese want life. We have chosen life. We refuse to die."

In the latest Hezbollah attack, two Arab Israeli children were killed and 37 people wounded when a Katyusha rocket fired from Lebanon exploded in the northern town of Nazareth.

Another two Israeli soldiers were killed in border clashes Wednesday after ground troops went back into Lebanon to conduct "pinpoint" operations against Hezbollah. One Hezbollah militant died in the shootout.

No ceasefire in sight

Twenty-nine Israelis, including 14 soldiers, have been killed since a Hezbollah attack in which two soldiers were captured, triggering the Israeli onslaught.

With still no sign of a ceasefire in sight, Israel vowed after a security Cabinet meeting that its "intensive war" against Hezbollah would go on as long as it deemed necessary.

International diplomatic efforts to end the bloodshed have yet to get off the ground, with Israel's chief ally the United States refusing to back calls for a ceasefire until Hezbollah halts its rocket attacks.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana were to meet in New York on Thursday with UN chief Kofi Annan, who has proposed the creation of an international force to restore calm.

Solana voiced the hope that the conflict could be over by the end of next week.

"We will work very, very hard to see if we can have an end of hostilities and the beginning of something of a political nature before the end of next week," he told the BBC.

On Wednesday, Israel waged a massive blitz from air and sea against southern and eastern Lebanon, flattening houses, destroying roads and hitting trucks, police said.

Twenty-five people were killed and 26 wounded in a single village where residents said 10 houses were turned to rubble by shelling from Israeli gunboats and warplanes.

Eleven other civilians were killed in an Israeli air strike on a four-story building in the eastern Lebanese village of Nabi Sheet, near the ancient Roman city of Baalbek.

Evacuation

Israeli helicopters also fired rockets on a residential Christian district in Beirut, the first direct strikes in the center of the capital, raising concerns about the evacuation operation under way at the nearby port.

Meanwhile Israel continued its other deadly offensive in the Gaza Strip, killing at least 10 people Wednesday, bringing to 96 the number of Palestinians dead since it launched an operation to retrieve a captive soldier and halt rocket attacks.

It also killed five others in a West Bank incursion into the city of Nablus.

Expressing alarm about the humanitarian situation in south Lebanon, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour said perpetrators in the conflict could be held to account for war crimes.

In Beirut, hundreds of foreigners were waiting to be evacuated by sea while more ships arrived in Cyprus, which lies just 160 kilometers to the west and is being used as the evacuation hub.

More than 1,000 people, mostly Americans, arrived on Cyprus from Beirut on a chartered cruise liner, with US diplomats seeking to help some 6,000 nationals exit Lebanon by Friday.

Britain is also hoping to evacuate about 5,000 of its nationals by the end of the week.

For many ordinary Lebanese there is little chance of such a rescue and police said some 70 percent of the population of south Lebanon, which has borne the brunt of the Israeli operation, had fled their homes to find safer places. *AFP*

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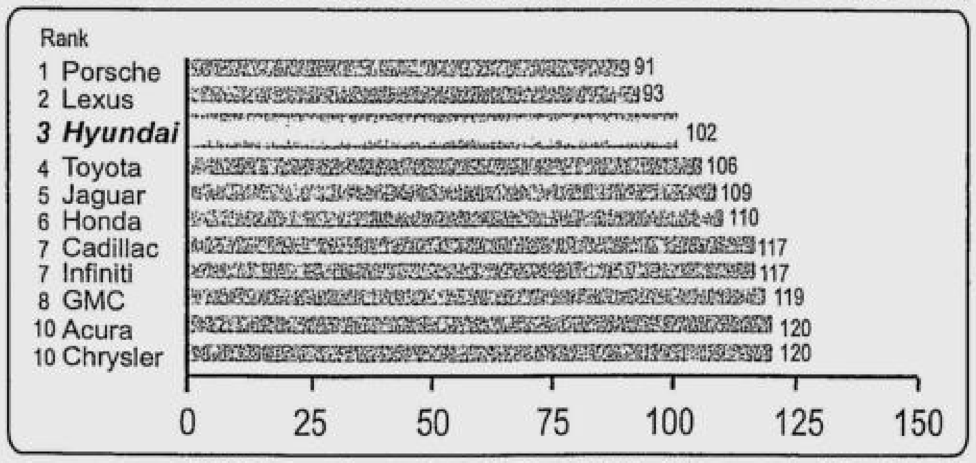

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WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ **Giants try to close it out again in Game 6 tonight**/A26

▨ **Owen takes early lead; Els at 2nd** /A27

▨ **RP Cuppers shut out S'gapore** /A28

Eagles clip tough Falcons

Tiu to the rescue as Ateneo survives thriller; Tigers stun Tams

By Jasmine W. Payo

ADAMSON'S Leo Canuday steers clear of a diving Yuri Escueta of Ateneo during their game yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

A ONE-YEAR HIATUS HARDLY AFfected his sweet-shooting form.

Returning guard Chris Tiu buried a three-pointer with 20.6 seconds remaining to lift the Ateneo Blue Eagles to a 73-72 decision over the Adamson Falcons in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Before Tiu's clutch triple, the Falcons had looked poised to claim their first victory over the Eagles in nine years. But Ken Bono, a sensation until the closing seconds, turned the ball over on Adamson's final play.

The crucial miscue paved the way for the Eagles to secure their third straight win for the solo lead.

"It's nice to have him back," said Ateneo coach Norman Black of Tiu, who skipped last season to study for one year in Paris, France. "It gave us one more shooter since we lost Magnum (Membrere). He came through with a big shot."

Doug Kramer, the Eagles' veteran big man, notched another double-double performance with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

It was the University of Santo Tomas Tigers who pulled off an upset in the second game.

Swingman Dylan Ababou completed a three-point play in the last 8.6 seconds as the Tigers shocked the defending champion Far Eastern Tamaraws, 90-87.

The 6-foot-3 sophomore scored underneath from an assist by Jojo Duncil, who shot 25 points and shared top scoring honors with rookie Jervy Cruz.

Ababou drew a foul from FEU's Jonas Villanueva, then nailed his bonus free throw to seal the Tigers' first win in two games.

Jeff Chan's game-tying triple rimmed out at the buzzer and the Tamaraws went down to their second straight loss.

"There were lapses in our defense that's why they were able to catch up, but the boys worked so hard in this game," said new UST coach Pido Jarencio.

The varsity scores:

First Game

ATENEO 73—Kramer 14, Intal 13, Escalona 10, Tiu 9, Al-Hussaini 8, Escueta 7, Arao 6, Laterre 4, Reyes 2, Salamat 0, Quimson 0, Barracoso 0.

ADAMSON 72—Cabahug 22, Bono 19, Hugnatan 14, Canuday 11, Yong 6, Orera 0, Pacheco 0, Poloyapoy 0, Gonzalgo 0, Basilio 0, Agustin 0.

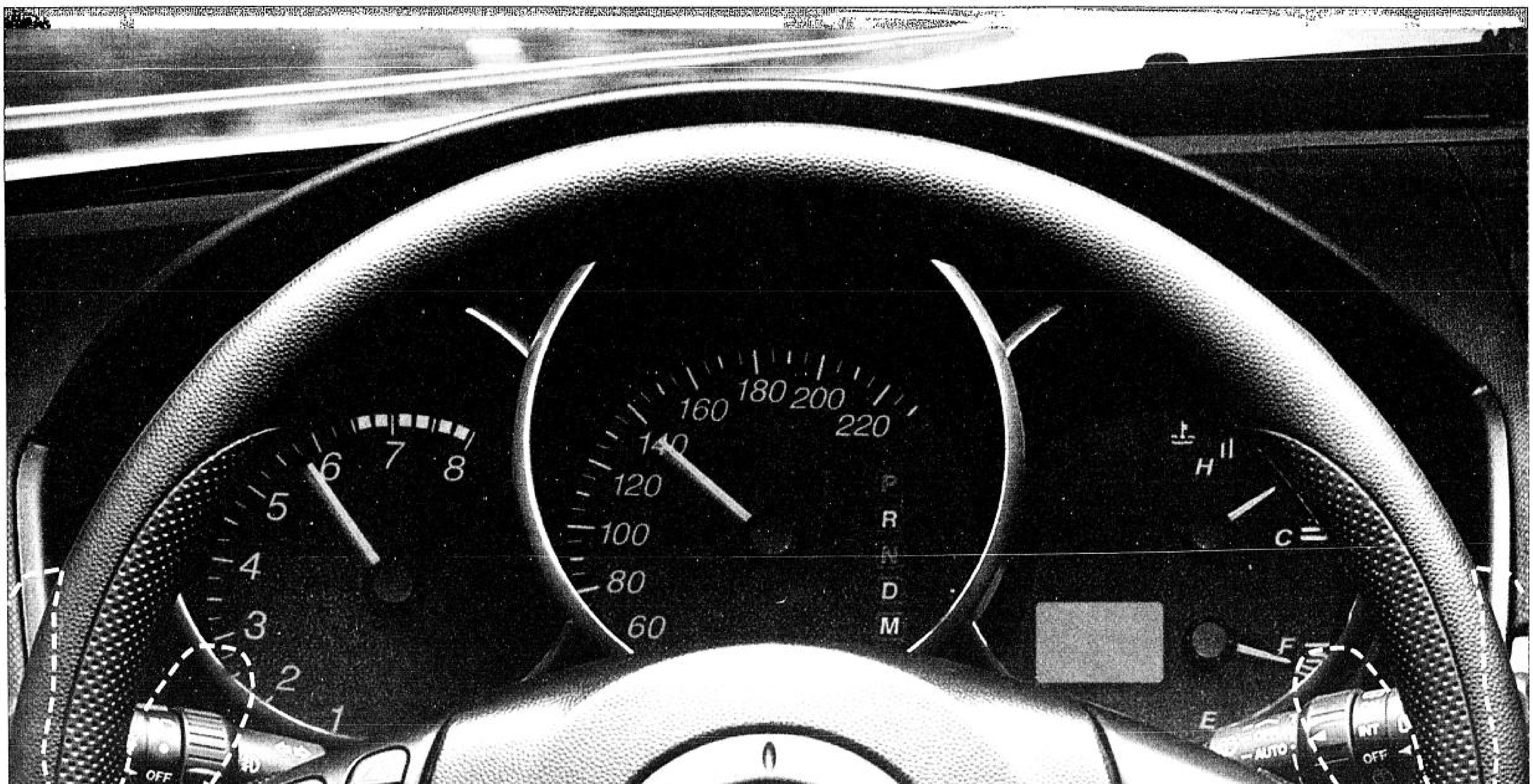
Quarters: 23-18, 37-40, 61-53, 73-72

Second Game

UST 90—Cruz 25, Duncil 25, Espiritu 8, Cuan 8, Cortez 7, Evangelista 6, Ababou 6, Canlas 3, Gile 2, Dizon 0, Taylor 0, Allera 0.

FEU 87—Chan 22, Jo. Villanueva 16, Adolfo 15, Fernandez 14, Baracael 13, Gerilla 6, Barcellano 1, Vinluan 0, Afable 0, Reyes 0, Je. Villanueva 0.

Quarters: 19-20, 47-44, 68-60, 90-87



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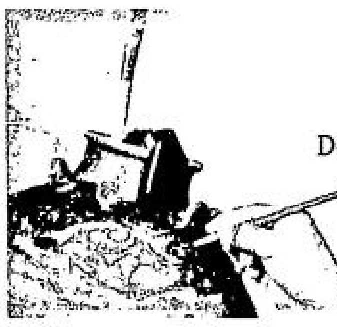

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RP-Air21 quint routs Japan, clinches s'final berth

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Hong Kong	2	0
China	1	1
Malaysia	1	1
Singapore	0	2
Group B		
RP-Air21	2	0
USA	2	0
Japan	0	2
Singapore	0	2

HONG KONG—FLAUNTING ITS FIREPOWER for the second straight day, RP-Air21 blasted Japan's Kagoshima City Red Sharks, 116-83, for its second straight win in the 15th Eastcolight-Super Kung Sheung Cup International Invitational basketball championship at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Ronald Tubid stood at the helm of the Filipinos' strong showing, erupting for a game-high 20 points on an awesome 6-of-7 shooting from the three-point area.

Ranidel de Ocampo, Mark Telan, Nino Canaleta and Leo Avenido also produced impressive numbers for the Filipinos.

De Ocampo added 19 points and eight rebounds, while Telan contributed 16 points on a solid 8-of-9 shooting.

Canaleta, the reigning PBA slam dunk champion, had 13 points, including a couple of breakway dunks that sent the pre-dominantly Filipino crowd to its feet.

The win enabled the 11-man RP-Air21 team to clinch the first crossover semifinal round berth.

The Filipinos also earned the right to compete in the inaugural Dr. Sun Yat Sen Cup, a four-nation, two-day tournament scheduled July 24-25 in nearby Shenzhen, just across the border of this capitalist, special Chinese region.

Next up for RP-Air21 is the Los Angeles-based Asian American Sports Club, which whipped Singapore, 80-56, in the other Group B encounter Wednesday night.

The winner of the RP-US match will earn top spot in Group B and a possible semifinal match against CBA champion Winnerway of China on Saturday.

The loser will meet defending champion Hong Kong, the only other unbeaten team in the tough, eight-nation tourney.

"With our lineup now, we can beat them (Chinese-Americans) and advance to the finals," said coach Bo Perasol of his charges who are being supported here by the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) and sponsored by Burlington, Accel and Federal Tyres.

Giants try to close it out again in Game 6 tonight

PUREFOODS SIMPLY LOVES BREAKOUT GAMES. IN CONTRAST, Red Bull favors a tight contest.

With a strong appetite for survival, the Bulls try to hurdle their fifth do-or-die game of the conference in Game 6 of their Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup Finals with the Giants tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

"If we keep the game close in the last two minutes, we will most likely win it," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, after the Bulls came back from 15 points down to halt the Giants, 98-93, in Game 5 Wednesday.

"They shoot so well when they're in the lead. There's less pressure, less distractions when they're in that situation," added Guiao, whose Bulls moved within 2-3 of the Giants in the best-of-seven series.

After Celino Cruz tied the count at 90 with a triple and Enrico Villanueva and Larry Fonacier went to work, the Giants suddenly got cold feet.

ERIK ARAZAS

EUGENE Tejada gets a very touching welcome from Purefoods trainer Patrick Esmundo as he arrives to watch his teammates in Wednesday's Game 4 of the Finals at the Big Dome. Tejada is still recovering from a spine injury as a result of a fall during the game against Red Bull last May 14.

PUREFOODS' James Yap battles Red Bull's Celino Cruz for possession in Game 5. ERIK ARAZAS

Season MVP James Yap muffed his last seven attempts from three-point range while Kerby Raymundo, who usually nails fadeaway jumpers from the perimeter, missed a couple of point-blank attempts.

"Putting the pressure by keeping the game close will somehow have an effect on their offense," said Guiao. "Our objective now is to keep the game close when it matters most and extend the series."

Having survived their fourth make-or-break match of the conference, it won't be a surprise if they pull off another one.

Barangay Ginebra failed to boot out Red Bull in two games in the quarterfinals and San Miguel Beer also went down to the Bulls in Game 7 of the semifinals.

There's a sense of urgency, though, to clinch the crown for coach Ryan Gregorio tonight.

"We didn't close it out Wednesday, we'll do whatever it takes to close it out today," said Gregorio.

June Navarro

GAME TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
7:10 p.m.—P'foods vs Red Bull (Game 6)
Game 1—P'foods d. Red Bull, 101-97
Game 2—P'foods d. Red Bull, 93-82
Game 3—Red Bull d. P'foods, 89-79
Game 4—P'foods d. Red Bull, 99-81
Game 5—RB d.

Knights ride out for No. 5 vs Cardinals; PCU-CSB up

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	5	0
San Beda	5	1
PCU	4	2
Mapua	3	2
S. Sebastian	3	4
Perpetual	2	5
Jose Rizal	1	5
St. Benilde	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
12 noon—PCU vs CSB (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs Mapua (Srs)

DEFENDING CHAMPION Letran shoots for a sixth straight win against Mapua today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The unbeaten Knights are favored in the 4 p.m. tussle which could serve as a warmup for their showdown with the second-running San Beda Lions (5-1) on July 26.

Philippine Christian University (4-2) closes out its first-round schedule against cellar-dweller and host College of St. Benilde (1-5) earlier at 2 o'clock.

"Right now, our concern is to maintain our level of play and pile up wins that will help us later in the tournament," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

Trampling the opposition

Led by veteran playmaker Boyet Bautista and Aaron Aban, the Knights have been trampling the opposition. Their last victims were no less than last year's runners-up, the PCU Dolphins, last week.

But Mapua mentor Horacio Lim is confident his Cardinals can rise to the challenge, especially after posting rousing wins over St. Benilde and Perpetual Help in their two previous games.

"They (Letran) are a tough team but they can be beaten just like any other team," said Lim, whose charges are at the upper half of the standings with a 3-2 record.

The Dolphins, whose four-game streak was cut short by the Knights, are odds-on picks over the Blazers. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

SPORTSWATCH

Accel 3-point shoot-out fires off July 26

ACCEL WILL LAUNCH ITS SECOND 3-POINT SHOOT-OUT CHALLENGE ON July 26 at the Festival Supermall in Alabang, the first of the tournament's 10 stops in a nationwide search for future basketball stars who excel in outside shooting. The shoot-out, which starts at 1 p.m., is open to all students 16 to 19 years old from the schools and colleges, as well as ouot-of-school youths in the cities of Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Makati, and Taguig. Registration is free. The regional winner will receive P3,000 cash and P3,000 worth of Accel products, with the runner-up getting P1,500 and a P1,500 Accel gift certificate. The top two shooters will also advance to the national finals where they will undergo extensive training under Allan Caidic, the tournament director. For inquiries, call 7422587, 9001123, or 9001124.

Espiritu Cup team meeting today

BASKETBALL TALENT MANAGER DANNY ESPIRITU WILL MEET WITH managers and coaches of teams invited to join the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at 7 p.m. today at the Funtastic Restaurant and Disco along Domestic Road, pasay City. Eight teams have been invited, but others which are interested to join are welcome to attend the meeting. The invited teams are Homer Go, John O, Las Pinas college, Pio del Pilar (Makati), Batang Tagaytay, King's Bakeshop, HSBC HPPD and Mediatrix Telecom. The rules and format of the event and other related matters will be discussed tonight. The tourney is scheduled to start on July 29. Interested parties may call either Danny Espiritu at 09178456944 or Romy Borromeo at 09217395558.

Special 3-cocker kicks off at Pasay

COCKERS AND BREEDERS FROM PASAY, MAKATI, PARAÑAQUE, LAS Piñas, Cavite and Bulacan converge today at Pasay City Cockpit for a special 3-cock derby which gets going at 6 p.m. featuring at least 50 tough matches, Sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the derby is hosted by veteran handler Lito Roque and offers a cash prize of P150,000. Meanwhile, the PCC 20th Anniversary 5-cock derby unwraps on Monday with over 150 cockers and breeders taking a shot at the P2 million guaranteed prize. The second round eliminations will be on Wednesday, July 26 and the finals on July 28. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

SJC cockfest third round gets going

THE WINNINGEST GAMEBIRDS WILL BE FIELDED ANEW TODAY WHEN the third round eliminations of the P3.5-M Rambulan 5-Cock Derby gets under way at the San Juan Coliseum. Today's 70-fight program will be supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Twenty new cockers from Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Rizal and Cavite signed up yesterday, bringing to 300 the total number of entries. The last day of eliminations is set on Tuesday. Meanwhile, SJC's "Super Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" kicks off tomorrow with a prize pot of P500,000 at stake for an entry fee of P1,100.

RACING BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Noble Principality (1), Magic Ewan Ko (6), Spoiler (4), Premiere Event (5)
Race 2—(Tri)—Lucky Punch (2), Virgin Island (5), Mr. Bonjing (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Jayvie's Godfather (6), She Boom (3), Guided Missile (1), Graceful Conqueror (7)
Race 4—Aryaam (4), Don't Tell Ella (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Expiditer (4), Cool Operator (7), Rock Attack Attack (2), Silver Place (5)
Race 6—(Tri)—Balwarte (1), Rhyme and A Prayer (5), Bull Rider (2)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Fly Aday Fly (7), Divine Right (4), Power Dance (8), Brute Force (3)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—From This Moment (6), Pay To See (1), Angle Gray/Uncle Buck (7), Easy Rider (5)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Thywilbedone (1), Sir Henry (3), Vivere (7), Ocean Deep (8), Air Force One (9), Man Power/Formidable Ella (2)

Sy, Peña keen on pressing AF3 leaders

ALTHOUGH THEY EARNED A measly 26 points between them in four races in China last week, Filipinos Tyson Sy and Dado Peña are keen on getting back into the title hunt, convinced that anything can happen in the next three rounds of the Asian Formula Three series next month in Sentul, Indonesia.

Struggling in wet driving conditions, Sy, the 18-year-old lead driver of Speedtech Asia, failed to finish in Rounds 6 and 8 and settled for fifth in Round 7 and fourth in Round 9 for 18 points. He slipped to third in the drivers' standings with 105.

Even more frustrated was Peña, 19, who failed to finish Rounds 6 to 8 and came in fifth in Round 9 for 8 points. From a tie for third after the first five races, he was relegated to sixth overall with 60 points.

Irishman Ali Jackson of Aran Racing, who is used to driving in the rain, won three of four races and leap-frogged to first with 127.

Briton James Winslow of JA Motorsports came up with a win and three runner-up finishes to move to second overall with 107.

But their misadventures at the Zhuhai International Circuit only served to fire up Sy and Peña in the races set Aug. 19-20 in Sentul.

"We have a chance to go for it in Sentul," said Sy, who struggled with his rebuilt Dallara 304 all week long. "*Basta ang mahalaga kami ang nasa una* (What's important is we start in front), unlike in Zhuhai where we started at the back."

Peña started No. 1 on the grid in Round 7 but was bumped from behind by compatriot Roland Hermoso in the first turn and failed to finish, just like in Round 8 when he touched cars with Pepon Marave.

"There were some things that happened to me that are part of racing," said Peña. "I'll go for it in Sentul. There's no harm in trying. I'll try to win as many races as I could."

Teaching boxing in schools? That's a no-brainer

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I WAS ASTOUNDED TO READ A REPORT THE other day that top officials of the Department of Education, headed by DepEd officer-in-charge Fe Hidalgo, are considering the inclusion of boxing in the public school curriculum.

That's a no-brainer.

Instead of teaching good values to the youth, the educators now want to include boxing as a physical education subject. Boxing is a violent sport, both in theory and practice, because its main purpose is to hurt.

In fact, several physicians, sociologists and other experts have said (and I agree) that boxing, both professional and amateur, has no place in any civilized society. Dr. George Lundberg, an editor of the Journal of American Medical Association, said, "It's abuse, pure and simple." He stressed that younger boxers face a greater risk—and this might legally constitute child abuse. "It (boxing) is predictable damage and, if it involves children, of kids bashing each other, hurting each other, then this makes a pretty good case for child abuse."

According to INQUIRER reporter Alcuin Papa, Hidalgo said boxing would most probably be adopted in the high school level since "we want kids in the elementary (level) to focus on their academics." Boxing could be a way out of poverty for some kids, she added, but "we would still want the children to learn to read and write."

With more kids training in boxing, the report said, there is a greater possibility of discovering another boxer like Manny Pacquiao, although finding one is like looking for a needle in a haystack. Pacquiao is one-in-a-million. Aside from his God-given skils and courage, he attained success because he worked harder and sacrificed more than other athletes.

Amateur boxing is less risky because the people who run the sport care about the fighters and they take every precaution to ensure the safety of their young boxers who wear padded headgear during their bouts. As noted American TV journalist Howard Cosell once said: "It was a joy to be around these (amateur) fighters and trainers because there were no greedy, scheming professional promoters to deal with."

Still, despite the safeguards adopted in amateur boxing, it has been evident from scientific findings that there is both serious and long-term brain injury to boxers.

Dr. Joseph Boyle, a president of the American Medical Association, said people are seriously disabled even after short exposure to boxing, even in relatively minor settings (like amateur boxing). "Amateur boxing is the farm team for professional boxing," he said.

Dr. Boyle said he found it a little bit strange that there are laws against pitting dogs and chickens while "putting two human beings in the ring is perfectly legal."

Another prestigious medical organization, the British Medical Association, also viewed boxing with disfavor, saying it is a non-human endeavor, and called for the abolition of pro boxing and amateur boxing as well.

On the theory that boxing is a route to economic success, medical experts counter by saying that society needs to worry more about the underprivileged majority and provide them with job security without sacrificing the brain.

A professor of brain sciences, Dr. Dominick Purpura of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, demonstrated how boxers' brain are damaged by a blow to the head. He said that repeated blows to the head of a young person can stunt the development of his brain. He pointed out "that the brain continues to develop into the fourth decade of life, and a boxer may interrupt that process by fighting while in his teens."

* * *

NAIL-BITING FINALS: Expect another banner crowd to attend Game 6 between Purefoods and Red Bull at the Big Dome tonight. Will the Chunkee Giants, who are leading the best-of-7 title series, 3-2, wrap up the PBA Philippine Cup or will the rampaging Bulls win anew and forge a rubber match?

Team USA kicks off training camp

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—TEAM USA TOOK another step toward trying to reclaim its global basketball supremacy when the national team opened its training camp Wednesday for the 2006 Worlds.

Dwyane Wade (Miami), LeBron James (Cleveland), Chauncey Billups (Detroit), Gilbert Arenas (Washington) and Carmelo Anthony (Denver) will lead a talented group of National Basketball Association stars who have assembled for the one week camp in the run up to the Worlds in Japan.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski said his priorities will be developing chemistry and teamwork as the Americans plan to pull out all the stops to avoid a repeat of their disappointing third place performance in the Athens Olympics.

"This is USA basketball," Krzyzewski said. "This is a team that has to share the ball and share responsibility.

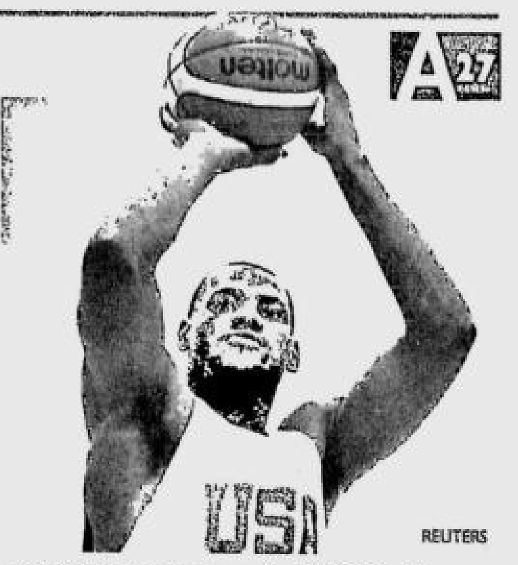
"It's good to look at everyone as a role player. In 1992 they had Michael Jordan in his prime, but other great players played a role. They all played defense and were unselfish."

The US opens the Las Vegas camp with 20 players, but that will be reduced to the final group of 12 that will travel to Japan for the Worlds which begin Aug. 19.

The US team is coming off a disappointing 2004 Summer Olympics where they went 5-3 and won the bronze medal. Leading scorers Stephon Marbury and Allen Iverson were not invited back this time.

The main area the US has to improve on is defense. They finished ninth in defense in 2004 by allowing an average of 83.5 points per game.

The United States is in group D with 2004 Olympic silver medalist Italy, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, China and Senegal. *AFP*



REUTERS

LEBRON James prepares for 2006 Worlds.

Golf trails in battle vs doping

HOYLAKE, England—SHORT AND PLUMP, Fred Funk chuckled at the prospect of testing golfers for drugs.

"I wish they would accuse me of using steroids," Funk said Wednesday, strolling quickly from the putting green to the locker room on the eve of the British Open.

Of course, performance-enhancing drugs are no laughing matter. Golf, with a code of conduct calling for players to police themselves, lags behind the other major sports when it comes to a formal doping policy. That could change following Wednesday's announcement that testing will be done at the World Amateur Team championship at Stellenbosch, South Africa Oct. 22-29.

"We don't think at the moment that there is much use of performance-enhancing drugs in golf," said Peter Dawson, the chief executive of Royal & Ancient.

"We are, if you like, cutting our teeth on making sure that we can administer that properly," said Dawson, adding the tests would be a good first step toward developing an effective doping system. "It's a rehearsal. I don't know when you're going to see drug testing in professional golf around the world, but we would support it."

On the US PGA Tour, there's a definite divide between those who want the top pros tested and those who say it would be a waste of time, money and effort.

"We're self-policing out here," Funk said. "You're either good enough or you're not good enough. I don't think drugs will help you get better."

But mindful of the scandals that have bedeviled baseball, cycling and athletics, Tom Pernice Jr. said he believes golf needs to send a clear signal that performance enhancers won't be tolerated. He said a detailed testing program, complete with a list of banned substances, is the only way to deliver that message. *AP*

ESPN Star Sports will air the 2006 British Open live on these schedules: **July 20**—1st Round 4-9 p.m., 9:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m.; **July 21**—Midnight-3 a.m., 2nd Round 4-9 p.m., 9:30-11:30 p.m.; **July 22**—Midnight-3 a.m., 3rd Round 5 p.m.-2:30 a.m.; **July 23**—Final Round 6 p.m.-2:30 a.m.

ENGLAND'S Greg Owen plays from the 4th tee during the opening round of the British Open. Owen shoots a 67 to take the lead.

AP

Owen takes early lead; Els at 2nd

HOYLAKE, ENGLAND—FORMER CHAMPION ERNIE ELS CHARGED into contention with a four-under-par 68 in the British Open first round on Thursday, finishing a stroke behind early pacesetter Greg Owen of Britain.

Determined to shake off a loss of form following a knee injury last season, the big South African rattled up six birdies and two bogeys in near-perfect scoring conditions at Hoylake's Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

He wasted a chance to birdie the par-five last after being bunkered off the tee and had to settle for an early share of second place with Sergio Garcia, Jim Furyk, Australians Marcus Fraser and Mark Hensby, South Korea's SK Ho, Canada's Mike Weir and Mikko Ilonen of Finland.

"I didn't play the last hole very well but it's always nice to make a par-saving putt," Els, the 2002 champion at Muirfield, said.

"I'll settle for four under. I'm swinging well and today was a pretty good score for me.

"It's the first round of a major championship and you definitely don't want to shoot yourself out of it the first day.

"It's not the hardest course we've ever played because of the weather but there's enough trouble out there," added the world number eight.

Twice winner Tiger Woods, tournament favourite this week despite having played only two events over the last three months, was among the late starters.

The world number one, who romped to victory by five strokes at St. Andrews last year, was scheduled to tee off in the company of three-times winner Nick Faldo and Shingo Katayama of Japan.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson, determined to banish memories of his final-hole meltdown at last month's US Open, was three under after 16 holes.

Englishman Owen, who led the 2001 Open at Royal Lytham after 35 holes, reeled off six birdies and a bogey to set the tournament pace.

"I was very calm out there and played really well," he said after picking up shots on four of the last six holes.

"I think I've learned to stay patient and just trust what I do. If the golf gods are in my favour, then I'll be good enough to win."

Spaniard Garcia, who tied for fifth in last year's Open championship at St. Andrews, was also in upbeat mood.

"I'm pretty happy with it," he said after collecting two birdies over the last three holes. "I feel that my putting is starting to come back and I putted nicely on the front nine.

"My game is not quite where I want it to be but it's getting there. It was a pretty comfortable day out there."

The scheduled start of the 135th Open championship was put back by half an hour because of thunderstorms. *Reuters*

WBA champion Diaz also wants Pacquiao

FOLLOWING WHAT HE CONSTRUED WAS A direct challenge from superstar Manny Pacquiao, World Boxing Association lightweight champ Juan "Baby Bull" Diaz said he is ready to take on the Filipino pound for pound great in the future.

Pacquiao was earlier quoted as saying he knows the way to beat Diaz after the WBA champion had beaten Filipino Randy Suico via a ninth-round technical knockout last Sunday at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino.

"Bring it on. I accept your challenge. Now let's see what happens," Diaz told Pacquiao in his public challenge made at the popular boxing website Boxingtalk.

Asked on a possible pay-per-view showdown with Pacquiao, the undefeated Diaz said: "I think it would be great and my manager told me that he wants to fight me now that I beat his (Pacquiao) countryman."

But for the fight to push through, experts say Diaz should go down to the junior lightweight limit of 130 lbs rather than Pacquiao going up to the 135 level where Diaz reigns. Diaz has recently been calling out linear lightweight king Diego Corrales for a much-awaited showdown.

Pacquiao is himself gearing up for a Nov. 18 rubber match with Erik Morales in Las Vegas, so if a fight with Diaz is to materialize, it could happen sometime early or middle next year.

WBC super featherweight champion Marco Antonio Barrera is also trying to lure Pacquiao to a rematch following his eleventh-round shaming at the hands of the Filipino icon in 2003. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Kimoni Tour lures record 1,160 players

THE SIX MONTH-BATTLE FOR SLOTS TO THE Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 grand finals culminated in a two-weekend competition recently when a record breaking 1,160 players took part in the Manila leg at the Olympic Badminton Court in Libis, Quezon City.

A prize package of P40,000 that included a P10,000 in cash and two Pinoy Power 888 commemorative premium rackets worth P30,000 were given to each level champion in juniors' division, ladies, men's and mixed doubles categories during the celebrity-studded awards night at Alegria Bar at Manila Pavilion Hotel.

Tournament sponsors were Powerade Sports Drink and Pagcor Casino Filipino.

Meanwhile, all category/level champions nationwide of the seven legs of Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 were treated to a fellowship last night at Club Horizon in Parañaque City.

The regional qualifiers clash tomorrow and Sunday in the Battle of the Champions at the Market! Market! Activity Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Grueling Alpine climb dashes Landis' title bid

LA TOUSSUIRE, FRANCE—IN A SINGLE torturous Alpine stage, Floyd Landis' lead and chance for a Tour de France victory slipped away almost pitifully as rider after rider passed him on the punishing final climb Wednesday.

Abandoned by his teammates, Landis fell apart, dropped to 11th place and lost the leader's yellow jersey a day after regaining it in a spectacular ride up the famed L'Alpe d'Huez.

Landis, now 8 minutes, 8 seconds, behind new race leader Oscar Pereiro, was unable to attack, let alone intimidate his rivals—which was Lance Armstrong's calling card en route to a record seven Tour wins.

"I suffered from the beginning, and I tried to hide it," Landis said. "I don't expect to win the Tour at this point. It's not easy to get back 8 minutes."

With about 13 kilometers (eight miles) to go up La Toussuire, Spain's Carlos Sastre burst out of a small group of would-be favorites that included Landis, and Pereiro and several other contenders gave chase.

The American simply couldn't keep up, losing the 10-second lead with which he started the day.

"Sometimes you don't feel well, and sometimes it's on the wrong day. What can I say?" asked Landis, who is riding with an injured hip.

And with that, Landis went in search of something cold and soothing.

"Drink some beer... that's all I'm thinking about now," he said, adding: "I would be lying if I said I was not disappointed."

So it goes in this topsy-turvy Tour, the first in the post-Armstrong era.

It's been strange from the get-go.

On the eve of the July 1 start, nine riders—including pre-race favorites Jan Ullrich and Ivan Basso—were sent home after they were implicated in a Spanish doping investigation.

Ever since, the race has lacked a clear leader. Seven riders have worn yellow—one fewer than the record. Landis and Pereiro each have led twice since the American first won the leader's jersey last Thursday.

The first time, Phonak took a gamble: It allowed Pereiro to take the yellow jersey on Saturday by not laying chase as the Spaniard broke away and, in the end, erased a deficit of nearly 30 minutes against Landis.

Landis regained the lead on Tuesday by shadowing Germany's Andreas Kloeden, runner-up to Armstrong in 2004, to make sure that he didn't gain time on him.

When Pereiro regained the lead on Wednesday, Phonak's original plan appeared to have backfired, and the team looked as if it badly underestimated one of its riders.

"It was difficult to imagine that things would turn out like this," Pereiro said. "Floyd Landis seemed untouchable, but like everybody, he wasn't immune to collapse.

"Something in me said that today could be my day."

Denmark's Mickael Rasmussen won the 182-kilometer (113-mile) stage through the Col du Galibier and the Col de la Croix-de-Fer—two climbs so hard that they defy classification in cycling's ranking system—before the uphill finish. *AP*

LANDIS: Abandoned by his team mates

CAISSE D'EPARGNE
Balears

PEREIRO: New overall leader

ZIDANE BANNED: Retired France skipper Zinedine Zidane was banned by Fifa for three games Thursday for head-butting Italy's Marco Materazzi during the World Cup final. Materazzi was suspended for two matches. Zidane was also fined 7,500 Swiss francs ($6,000) and Materazzi 5,000 francs ($4,000) after a disciplinary committee heard Zidane's account of what led to the incident.

Meralco, Purefoods shuttlers triumph

MERALCO STAYED ALIVE IN THE CORPORATE Masters and Purefoods easily triumphed in the Corporate Classic Wednesday as action resumed in the Sportshouse and Dunlop Corporate Badminton Invitational Cup at the Club 650 in Libis and SM Megamall.

Thanks to the mixed doubles tandem of Doodie Sertan and Dianah Barbo, Meralco extracted a 3-2 win over Inktelligence to stay in the running for a finals berth in the four-team Masters division after an opening day loss to Philippine Star. Sertan and Barbo combined beautifully in the third set to score a 21-12, 18-21, 21-8 triumph over JC Benipayo and Sheryl Caraig of Inktelligence and provide the marginal point for the Meralco shuttlers.

Purefoods advanced the easy way, routing Slazenger, 5-0, and emerging as one of the teams to beat in the Classic division of the week-long tournament organized by former Olympian Weena Lim.

Meralco and Inktelligence split the first four matches, paving the way for the all-important match between the pairs of Sertan-Barbo and Benipayo-Caraig.

Michelle Guererro and Criselda Sarabia put Meralco first on the scoreboard with a 21-7, 21-13 decision over Mariel Tiongco and Maan Leynes. But Inktelligence evened up through Wilfredo Albo and Ruel Inciong, who defeated Alex Cuevas and Danilo Ildefonso, 23-21, 21-16.

The two teams split the next two matches before Sertan and Barbo came up with the clincher for Meralco.

Eleven teams in the Classic and four in the Masters are seeing action in the fourth edition of the event.

Solar Sports airs JVC finals tonight

FEATURED FINAL MATCHES OF THE RECENT JVC Open Badminton Championships will be telecast beginning 8 tonight on Solar Sports. The championship in the girls' singles in the juniors division pitting Karyn Velez and Gelita Castillo kick off the three-day airing of the finals of the P1 million event sponsored by JVC (Phils.) Inc. Also on tap are the juniors boys' doubles match between brothers Peter and Patrique Magnaye against James Bell Rizon and John Roy Densing and the elite mixed doubles clash between Ronald Daymiel and Ginalee Daymiel versus Andre Babad and Rina Batuigas.

RP Cuppers whitewash Singapore

By Marc Anthony Reyes

"I HOPE THIS CONTINUES SO WE CAN GET OUT OF THIS GROUP." This from someone very uncomfortable at playing in Group 3—the lowest in the field—of the Davis Cup qualifying.

Philippine non-playing captain Roland So, a mainstay when the country was competing against the region's best, made the comment yesterday after the Philippines shut down Singapore for its second straight victory in the Asia-Oceania zonals at the Manila Polo Club.

Fil-Americans Erik Taino and Cecil Mamiit once again came to the fore with brilliant victories in their singles matches before homegrown talents Johnny Arcilla and JP Tierro won the doubles for a 3-0 victory.

With a similar shutout victory over Sri Lanka last Wednesday, the Philippines is now assured of reaching the semifinals going into its last assignment against Vietnam today.

The semifinals will be played tomorrow.

Taino, the 2005 Southeast Asian Games mixed doubles champ with Riza Zalameda, completely dominated Min Wee, 6-0, 6-0, to touch off the rout at the upper indoor shell court of the posh Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

The 30-year-old Taino also started the RP romp last Wednesday with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Sri Lanka's Amrit Rupasinghe.

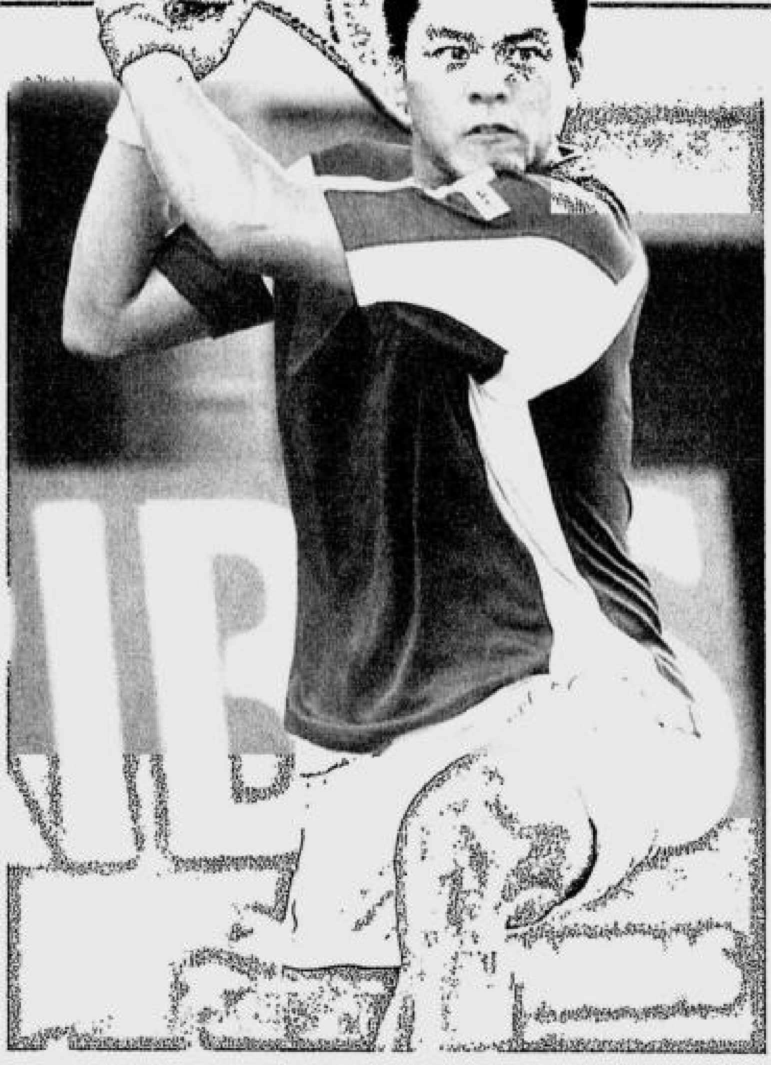
Mamiit, the SEAG singles titlist, then whipped Hok Huen Kam, 6-1, 6-0, in a solid followup to his 6-4, 6-2 win over Sri Lanka's Harshana Godmanna.

The twin victories gave So reason to field in Arcilla and Tierro for the doubles after benching them last Wednesday. And the duo didn't let him down, scoring a 6-2, 6-1 win.

So said he expects a tougher time against Vietnam today.

Eight teams are competing in the qualifying phase. The Philippines is grouped with Sri Lanka, Singapore and Vietnam. Iran, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh are in the other bracket.

The top two teams will advance to the Saturday semifinals. The winners clash on Sunday for the title and the spot promotion to Group 2.



WHITEWASH: ERIC Taino returns to Min Wee of Singapore. RODEL ROTONI

Malaysian ace ousts Kennevic; 2 Pinoys gain in Macau Open

KENNEVIC ASUNCION TOOK AN early exit against a Malaysian heavyweight but two other Filipino shuttlers made it through the first round of the men's singles in the Macau Open badminton championship Wednesday night.

The 26-year-old Asuncion, the other half of the country's most famous tandem, ran into world No. 9 and current Philippine Open titlist Hafiz Mohd Hashim right off the reel and bowed out, 10-21, 8-21.

But he will still see action late Thursday in the mixed doubles event with sister Kennie. As world No. 21, the Asuncions obtained better positions in the draw.

Making up for Kennevic's loss were Wally Fernandez and Christopher Flores, who bundled out their foes from the host Macau.

Fernandez drubbed Man Tong, 21-9, 21-14, while Flores downed Chan Wai Keong, 21-16, 21-16.

But their prospects in the second round are not so bright. Fernandez is pitted against Chinese Bao Chunlai while Flores will duel the Netherlands' Eric Pang.

"All the world class players are here," said head coach Errol Chan of the five-star event. "We are not setting any goals other than gaining as much experience as possible."

ASUNCION: Tough opener

Indonesian superstar Taufik Hidayat and China's former world No. 1 Lin Dan, who both played in last week's MVP Cup 2, are also seeing action along with the world's top player Chong Wei Lee of Malaysia.

Four other RP players bowed out.

Lloyd Escoses, one of the country's top singles player, snatched the first set but was eventually outplayed by Malaysia's Ayob Sairul Amar, 20-22, 21-12, 21-6.

Rodel Bartolome fell to Pang, 7-21, 9-21; Bogs Amahit lost to South Korea's Jong Young-sao, 14-21, 11-21; and Owen Lopez bowed to South Korea's Hwang Jung-woon, 5-21, 9-21. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

On the menu: Increased food, travel allowances for RP bets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HERE'S A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS FOR NAtional athletes.

The Philippine Sports Commission yesterday said it is planning to increase the daily travel allowance of each national athlete from $30 to $50 as well as the regular food stipend from P350 to P450.

Commissioner Richie Garcia said the PSC, in coordination with the Philippine Olympic Committee, is discussing the plan in view of the rising prices of commodities.

Garcia said that for the longest time the agency gives $30 a day for athletes competing or training abroad as food and hotel allowance even if the exercise is paid for entirely by sponsors.

"That is unfair to those who get the same amount but pay for their hotel and food," Garcia told the INQUIRER. "So, since we are not allowed to give pocket money to anybody, we thought it's better to change the name (allowance) to 'contingency fund'."

Those who won't get free food and hotel accommodation abroad will be given additional $30 a day, according to the commissioner.

"That way we don't risk getting charged with malversation because these are government funds," Garcia said.

The PSC, added Garcia, is also planning to increase the food allowance but will try to work out an arrangement with the caterers to make sure the athletes receive the commensurate amount of food every day at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and at PhilSports.

VISMIN INTERSCHOLASTIC

Paref-Springdale, Sacred Heart golfers out front

CEBU—PAREF SPRINGDALE AND SACRED Heart pulled away to unassailable leads in the boys' grade school and high school play, leaving just the girls' college-high school and grade school undecided after the penultimate round of the 2nd Samsung Vismin Interscholastic Golf Championships at the Cebu Country Club course.

Charles Daniel Uy scored 40 points, Kento Nakada chipped in 36 and Franz Ian Dy submitted 35 as Sacred Heart totaled 111 for the day and 236 for 36 holes, 44 points clear of Paref-Springdale which had 93-192.

The grade schoolers of Paref-Springdale, however, maintained a 14-point spread over University of St. La Salle as Angelo Jose Gandionco scored 40, Martin Mendoza had another 32 and Jhan Uy contributed 14 for 86 and 175 for two days in the three-day event sponsored chiefly by Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp.

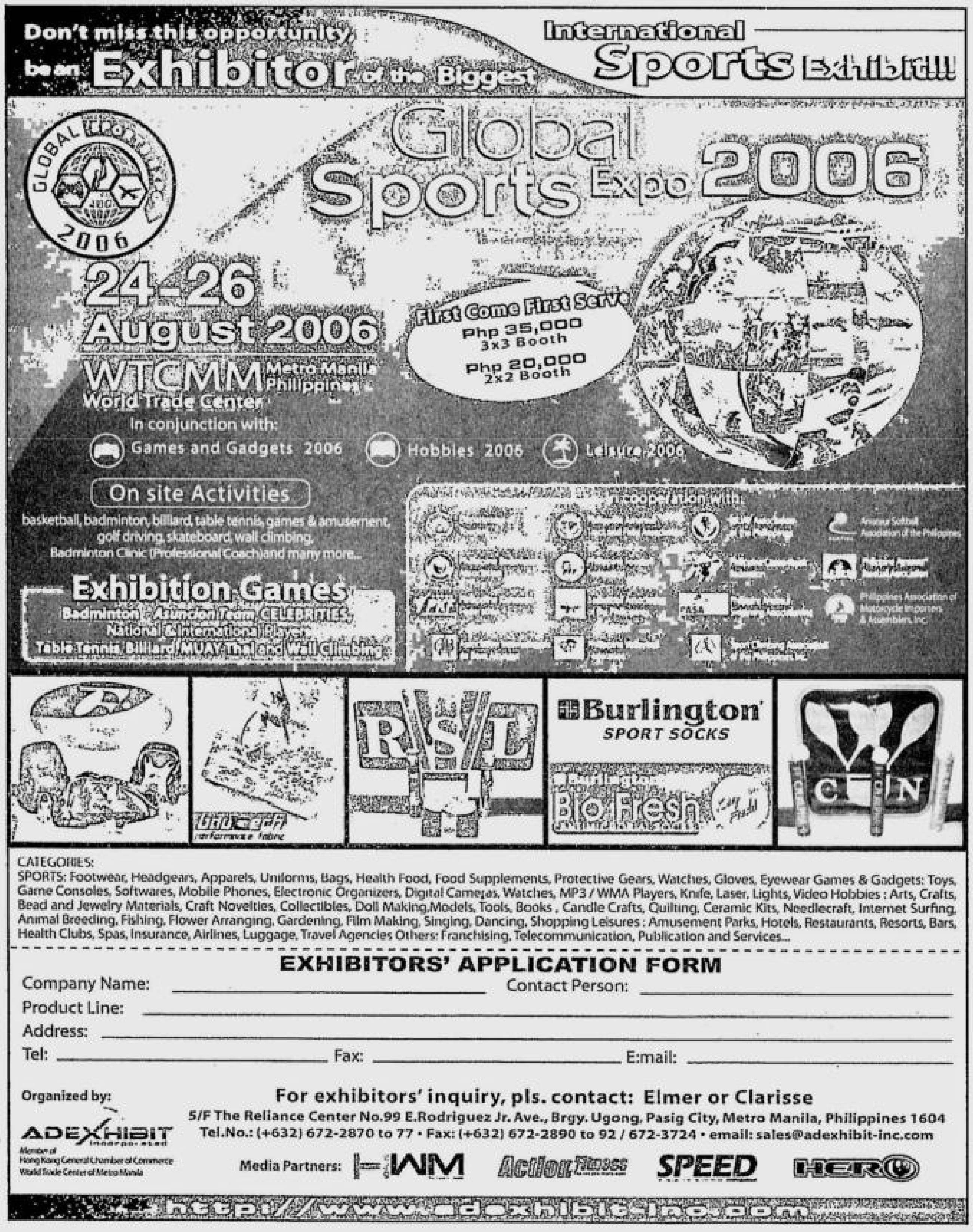
CIE bucked another big round by Sacred Heart's Stephanie Olea to stay seven points clear in girls' college-high school while Our Lady of Lourdes Bukidnon took a five-point lead in grade school.

With most of the team titles virtually taken, focus shifts to the battle for the individual trophies.

In the girls' high school-college division, Love Lynn Guiguio of Xavier (47-93) wrested a four-point lead over Olea (42-89) and Marian Woo of Holy Cross High (46-89), while Sunny Chung led CIE teammate Min Ji Kim by a point in the special division. Irina Gabasa of Bright Academy had a 24-point lead in the girls' grade school category.

Showing the way in the boys' division were Louie Mariano of Xavier in college, Edsel Tan of Bethany Christian School in high school, Gandionco in grade school and Franz Ivan Dy of Bethany in the special division.

Mariano was 11 up on Charles Francis Tiu.



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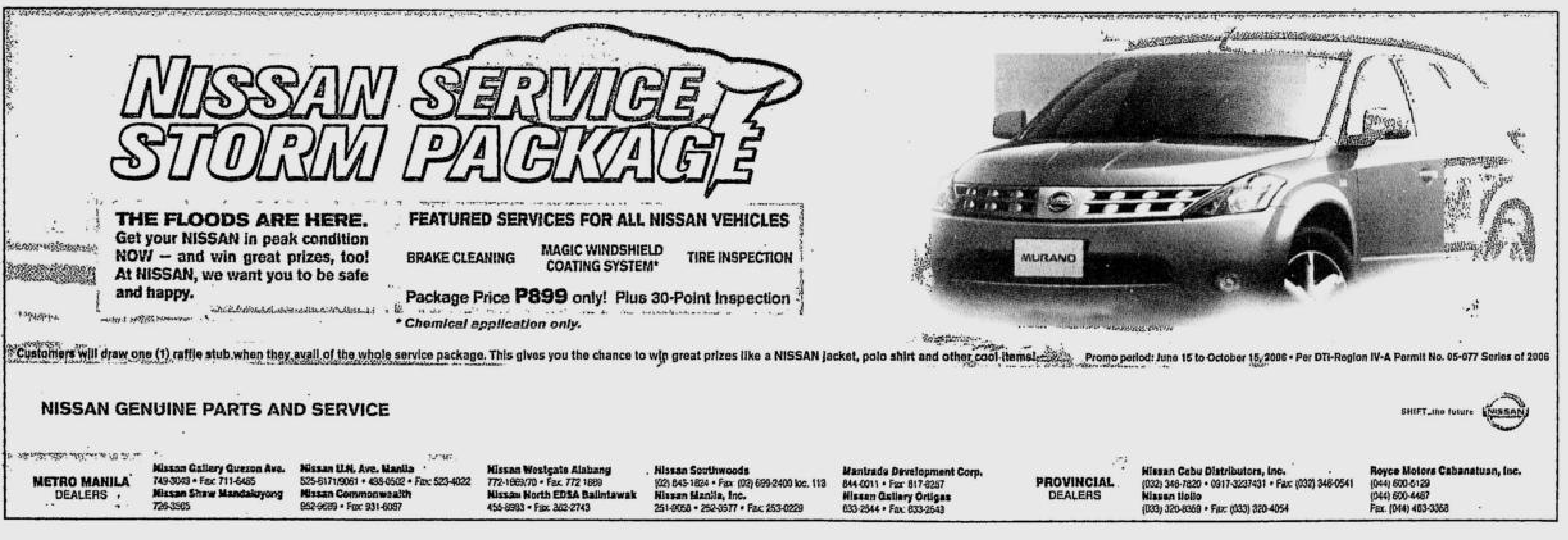

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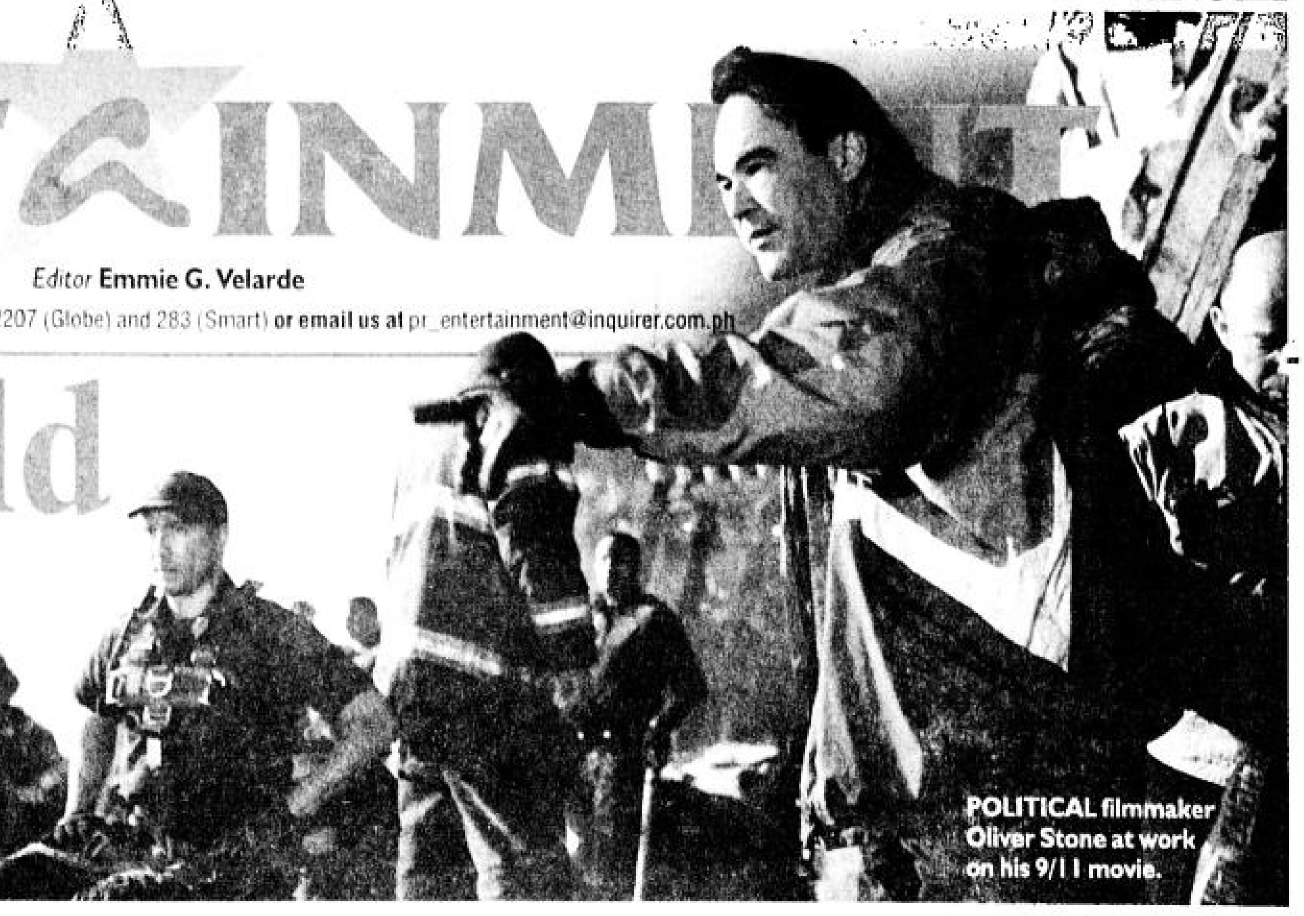
A first look at 'World Trade Center,' a chat with Oliver Stone



POLITICAL filmmaker Oliver Stone at work on his 9/11 movie.

LOS ANGELES—"I'VE JUST BEEN TO THE PHILIPPINES," DIRECTOR **Oliver Stone** told me when I congratulated him on the 20th anniversary of the release of "Platoon," which was shot in Cavite. The milestone was celebrated with a special showing of the film in Cannes last May.

The acclaimed director, who won an Oscar and a Golden Globe for directing "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July," which was also shot in the Philippines, explained that he was in Manila on a "private business with Jun Juban."

Jun is a Filipino production liaison and technical advisor who is the go-to guy when Hollywood comes to shoot films in the Philippines. He made it possible for Oliver to continue working on "Platoon" even while the People Power revolt against the Marcos regime was raging on Edsa.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Hoping that Oliver was just being coy about the true nature of his visit to the Philippines, I asked if the "private business" meant he was planning to make another movie there. "Unfortunately, no," he replied, giving me that familiar gap-toothed smile which instantly made the filmmaker, who turns 60 in September, appear boyish.

Later on during the press con, when a reporter asked how much sleep he had the night before, he broke into that smile again and asked, "Do I look that bad?" He added, amid the ensuing laughter, "Not enough. I need some more sleep. But you guys are keeping me awake."

Indeed, the press kept Oliver awake with questions about his latest film, "World Trade Center," a moving drama based on the true story of **John McLoughlin** and **Will Jimeno**, two police officers who rushed into the burning World Trade Center on 9/11 to help rescue people trapped in the rubble. But they themselves were trapped when the tower collapsed.

Three-hankie film

"World Trade Center" is a three-hankie film that carries you away emotionally as a race against time to rescue John and Will—portrayed by **Nicolas Cage** and **Michael Peña** (this "Crash" actor will get major plaudits for his performance here), respectively—ensued before their air ran out. The anguish of the two men's families and the heroic efforts of rescue teams, especially the determination of a former Marine to find survivors in the massive rubble, are rivetingly portrayed.

While it was clear that Oliver was set to make a film focusing on John and Will's miraculous survival—and he succeeds on these terms—many of the journalists wished that the filmmaker had done a large-scale dramatization of 9/11 with all its international and political implications. They expected this from the very political director who is not hesitant to speak about his liberal ideology. The line of questioning hammered at this point.

"Don't pigeonhole me by saying this is not a typical Oliver Stone story," Oliver said. He's still very much a political animal, of course. One of his most potent statements on the press con was, "The consequences of that day are far worse than that day (itself)."

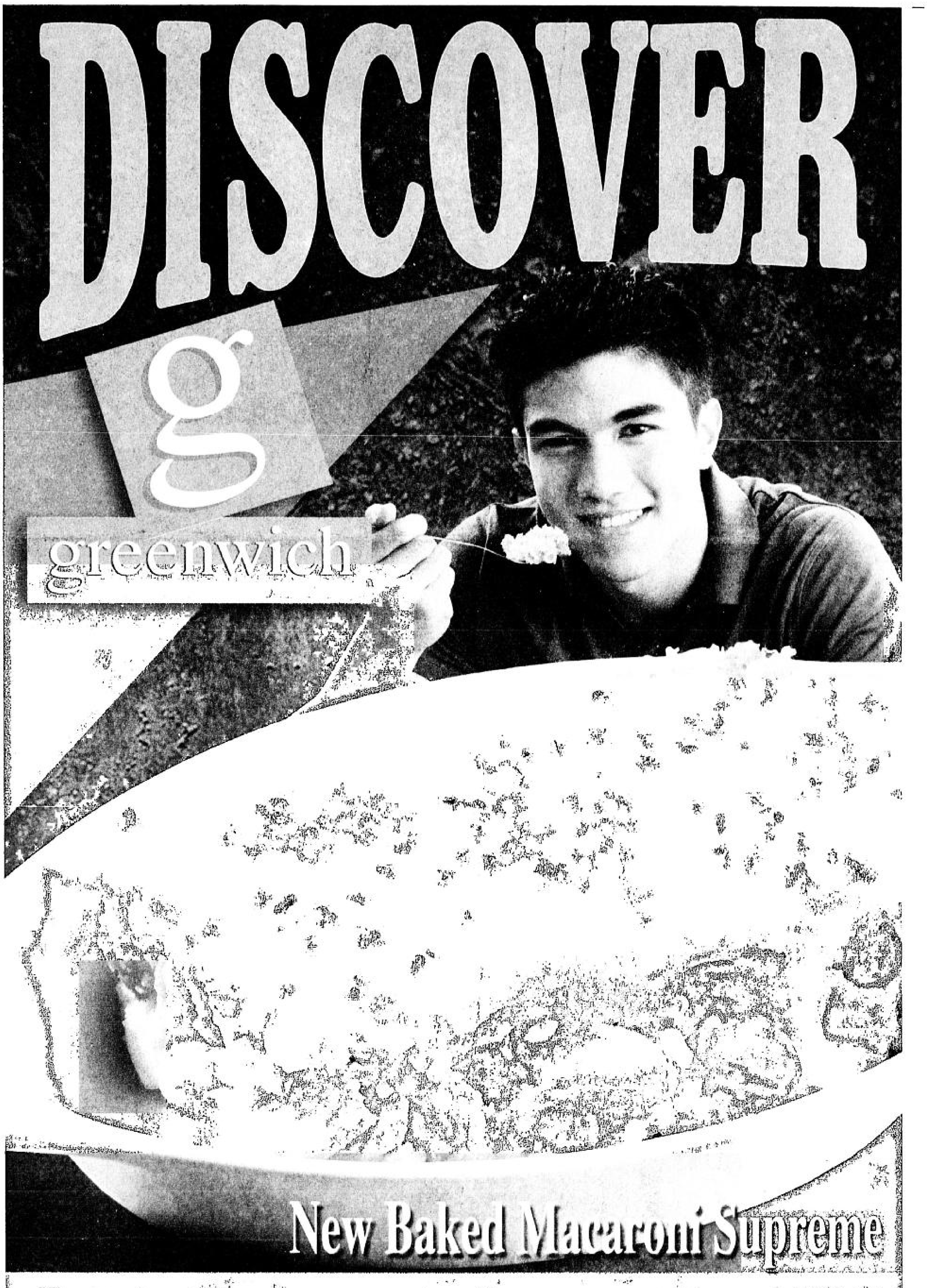
While this is a very moving, intimate look at 9/11 as seen through the eyes of two men and their families, did you wrestle with the idea of doing a film on 9/11 in a larger context, with international and political repercussions?

Yes. In fact, on the day of the attacks, the New York Times spoke to several people in the business. I was one of them and I said, "Why not do a film?" The whole tendency at the time was to go the other way and say, "Well, now, that'll pull the rug on all reality films, right?" Everything that's violent will be pulled from distribution. The world has changed forever. Not so, I argued. The world will go on and I think we should make a film about terrorism. I mentioned the "Battle of Algiers" because I thought it was good to take a good hard look at what this is about. I didn't do that movie because the climate was not right in this country for that. In another time it may still be done but it may be done by other people, too.

What story-telling approach did you use?

We told it from inside out. It's a subjective story about these two men and their wives, their families, the rescuers, what they saw. I honored that. We stuck to what they felt and saw at the time. They did not see the towers hit. They only saw the collapse of the towers from inside. They were, in fact, at the greatest stress point of all. They were right in the middle of the two towers. It's a miracle that they survived. It was because of the elevator shaft there, which they ran to. It would have ruined the story to jump out from that perspective. Everything was supposed to be

A FIRST LOOK/ A2-4



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9 NACHO LIBRE
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10 LOVE WRECKED
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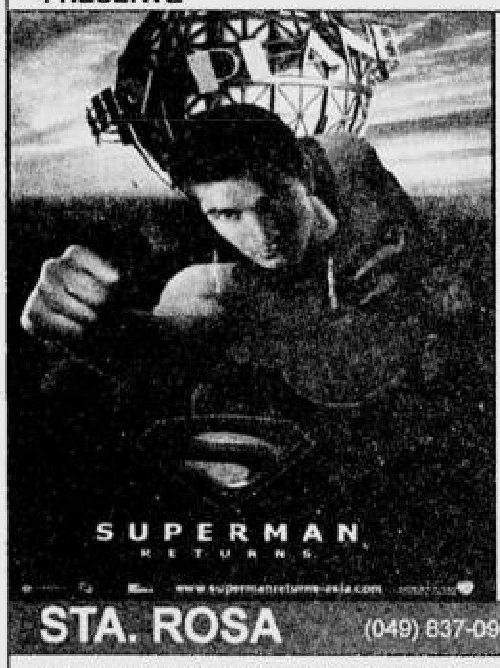

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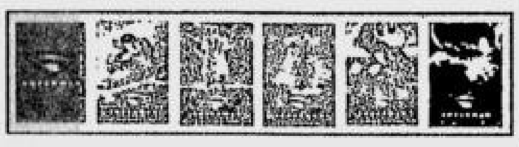

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3 WHITE LADY

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-6271

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LADY IN THE WATER
5 R.V. RUNAWAY VACATION
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
9 NACHO LIBRE
10 WHITE LADY

Blue Wave

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 WHITE LADY
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
3 WHITE LADY
4 NACHO LIBRE
5 R. V.

THE MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
2 WHITE LADY
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 WHITE LADY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4440348)

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.3001 to 03

1 I WHITE LADY
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 R. V.
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 WHITE LADY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 NACHO LIBRE
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 RUNAWAY VACATION

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 R. V. RUNAWAY VACATION
2 WHITE LADY
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 WHITE LADY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 R. V. RUNAWAY VACATION

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 WHITE LADY
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 WHITE LADY
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795 3320

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
2 R. V. RUNAWAY VACATION
3 WHITE LADY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 WHITE LADY
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 BATAS MILITAR
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
2 ROSARIO 18
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 SABIK SAYO

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 R. V. RUNAWAY VACATION
2 BOLD STAR
3 WHITE LADY
4 BATAS MILITAR
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 R. V. RUNAWAY VACATION
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
3 WHITE LADY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PEEP SHOW

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For Inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 NACHO LIBRE
2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:50
PG-13

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30
GP

3 LADY IN THE WATER
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
PG-13

4 RUNAWAY VACATION
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LADY IN THE WATER PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30	NACHO LIBRE PG13 1:20,3:30,5:40,7:50,10:00	RUNAWAY VACATION G 1:25,3:30,5:35,7:40,9:50
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 G 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 G 1:50,5:00,8:10

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440-41

SHANG CINEPLEX

① PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

② LADY IN THE WATER
MTRCB. PG-13
2:00 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

③ R.V. RUNAWAY VACATION
MTRCB GP
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

④ NACHO LIBRE
MTRCB PG-13
1:20, 3:30 5:40 7:50, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
2:10, 5:20, 8:30 MTRCB GP

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special!

Come to SHANG'S SEASON-ENDER SALE from JULY 14-31!
Enjoy up to 75% OFF on selected items! Get a chance to win exciting prizes in the "SHOP, PICK AND WIN" promo during the sale period.

For inquiries, please call 633-7851 to 70
See posters and flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3 0538 series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 NACHO LIBRE
12:15 , 2:25 , 4:35
6:45 , 9:00 PG13

CINEMA 2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 , 3:00 , 6:00
9:00 GP

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 RUNAWAY VACATION
10:45 , 1:00 , 3:15
5:30 , 7:45 , 10:00
GP

CINEMA 4 LADY IN THE WATER
11:20 , 2:00 , 4:40
7:20 , 10:00 PG13

CINEMA 5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
10:40 , 1:30 , 4:25
7:20 , 10:15 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

JULY 22,2006	RAZORBACK BAND	9:00PM
JULY 29,2006	PILITA C. & ELIZABETH R.	8:30PM

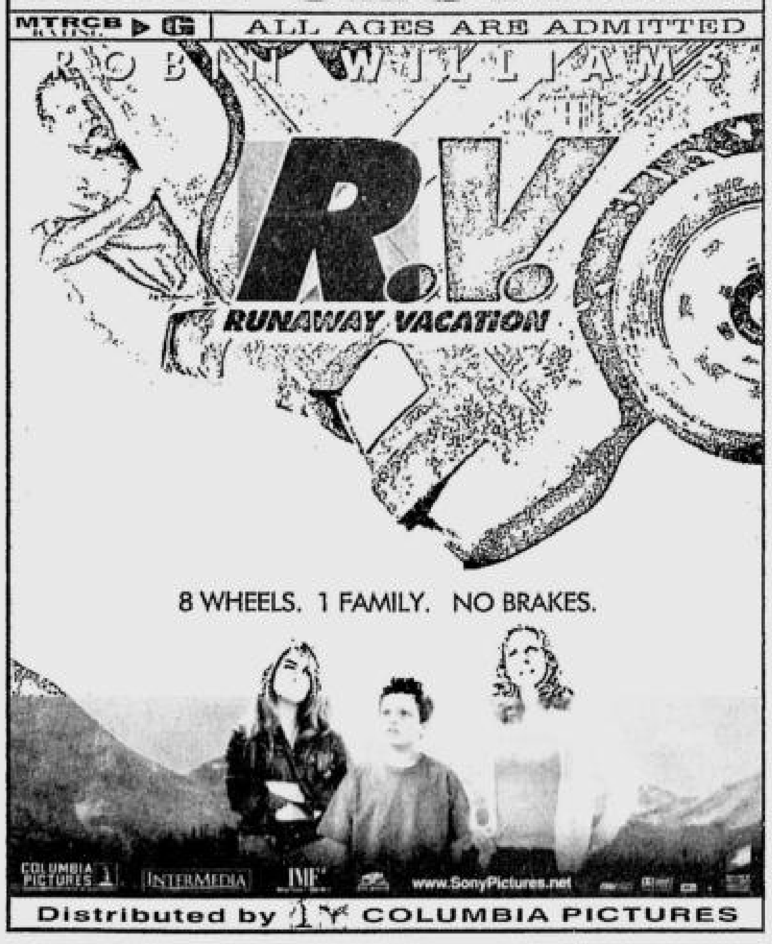
TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO . CLASSICO	8:00PM
JULY 21 ,2006	JUICE	9:00PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC.116	

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

NOW SHOWING

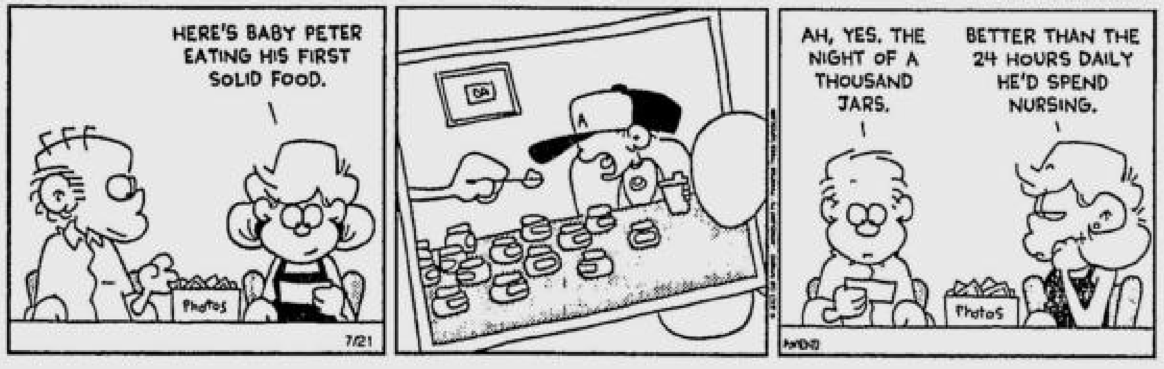
MTRCB RATING ▶ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

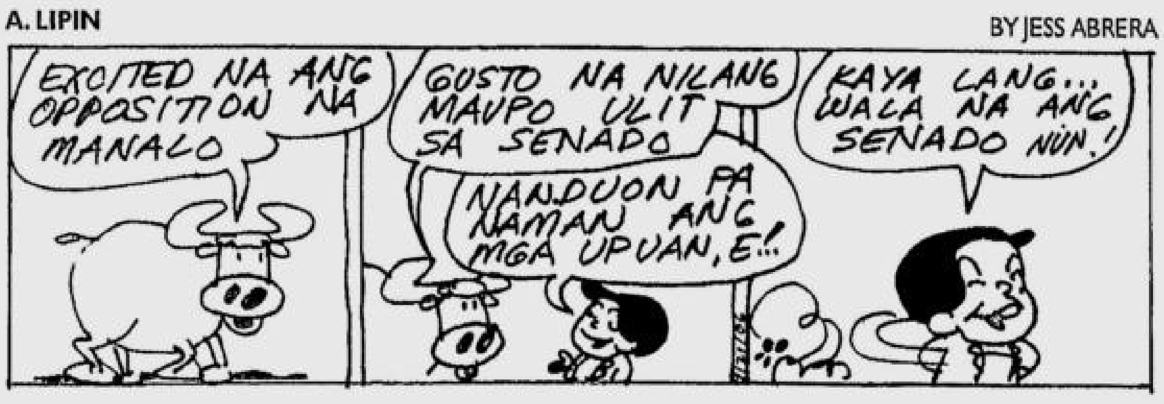
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HERE'S BABY PETER EATING HIS FIRST SOLID FOOD.
Photos
7/21
AH, YES. THE NIGHT OF A THOUSAND JARS.
BETTER THAN THE 24 HOURS DAILY HE'D SPEND NURSING.
Photos

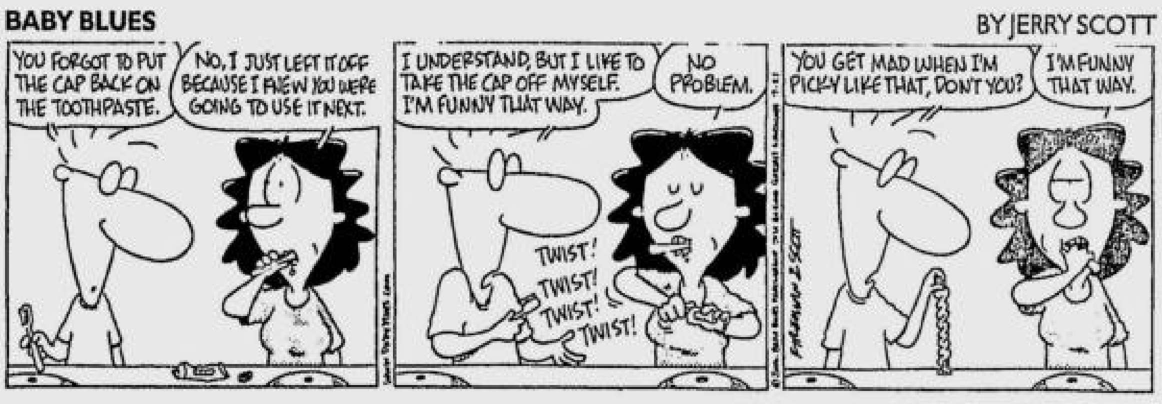
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


EXCITED NA ANG OPPOSITION NA MANALO
GUSTO NA NILANG MAUPO ULIT SA SENADO
NANDUON PA NAMAN ANG MGA UPUAN, E..!
KAYA LANG... WALA NA ANG SENADO NUN..!

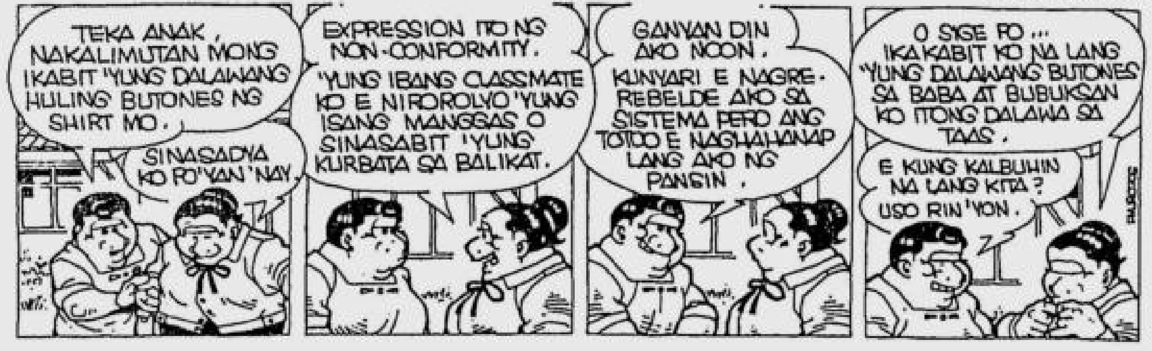
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU FORGOT TO PUT THE CAP BACK ON THE TOOTHPASTE.
NO, I JUST LEFT IT OFF BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO USE IT NEXT.
I UNDERSTAND, BUT I LIKE TO TAKE THE CAP OFF MYSELF. I'M FUNNY THAT WAY.
NO PROBLEM.
TWIST! TWIST! TWIST! TWIST!
YOU GET MAD WHEN I'M PICKY LIKE THAT, DON'T YOU?
I'M FUNNY THAT WAY.

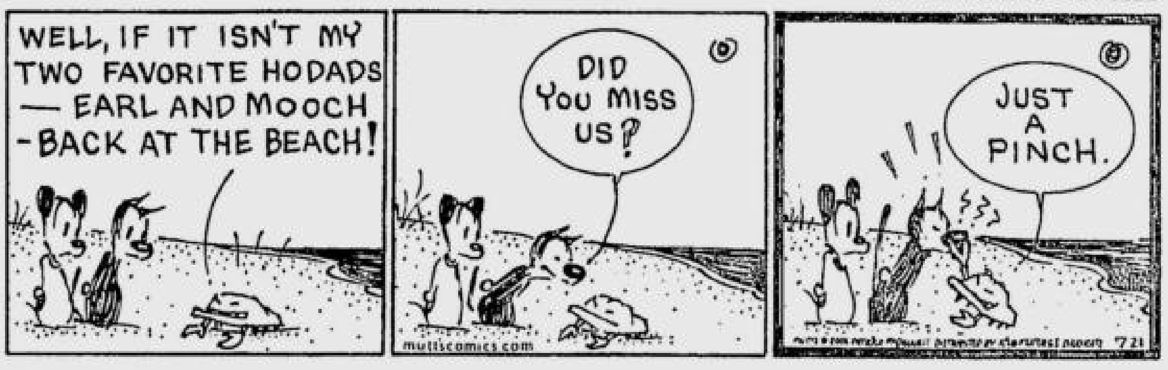
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TEKA ANAK, NAKALIMUTAN MONG IKABIT 'YUNG DALAWANG HULING BUTONES NG SHIRT MO.
SINASADYA KO PO 'YAN 'NAY.
EXPRESSION ITO NG NON-CONFORMITY.
'YUNG IBANG CLASSMATE KO E NIROROLYO 'YUNG ISANG MANGGAS O SINASABIT 'YUNG KURBATA SA BALIKAT.
GANYAN DIN AKO NOON.
KUNYARI E NAGREREBELDE AKO SA SISTEMA PERO ANG TOTOO E NAGHAHANAP LANG AKO NG PANSIN.
O SIGE PO... IKAKABIT KO NA LANG 'YUNG DALAWANG BUTONES SA BABA AT BUBUKSAN KO ITONG DALAWA SA TAAS.
E KUNG KALBUHIN NA LANG KITA? USO RIN 'YON.

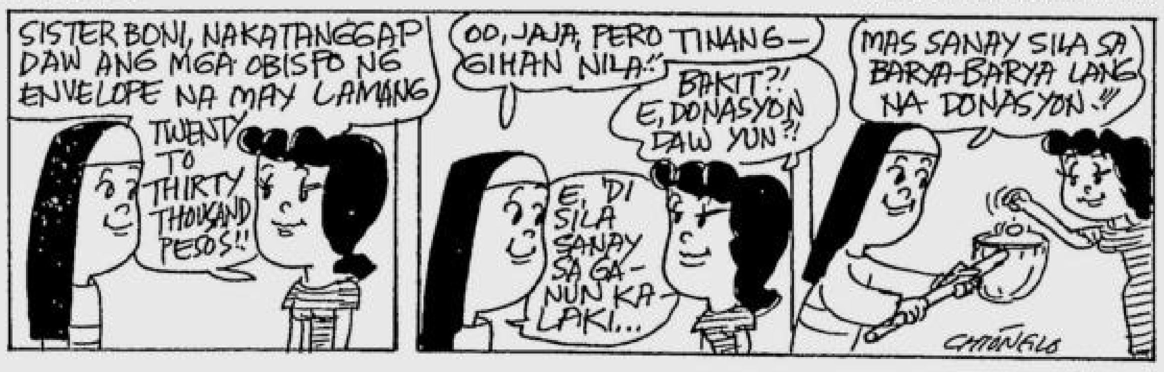
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WELL, IF IT ISN'T MY TWO FAVORITE HODADS — EARL AND MOOCH - BACK AT THE BEACH!
DID YOU MISS US?
JUST A PINCH.
mutts comics.com
7-21

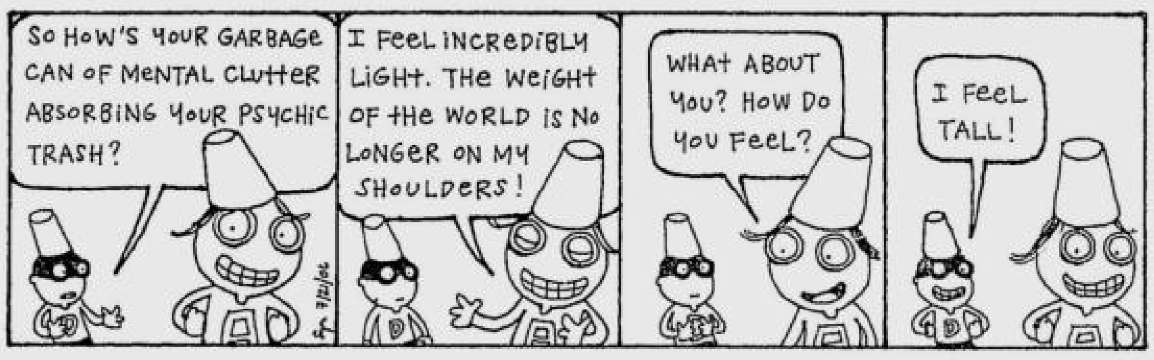
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI, NAKATANGGAP DAW ANG MGA OBISPO NG ENVELOPE NA MAY LAMANG
TWENTY TO THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS!!
OO, JAJA, PERO TINANGGIHAN NILA!
BAKIT?! E, DONASYON DAW YUN?!
E, 'DI SILA SANAY SA GANUN KALAKI...
MAS SANAY SILA SA BARYA-BARYA LANG NA DONASYON..!!
CHIONGLO

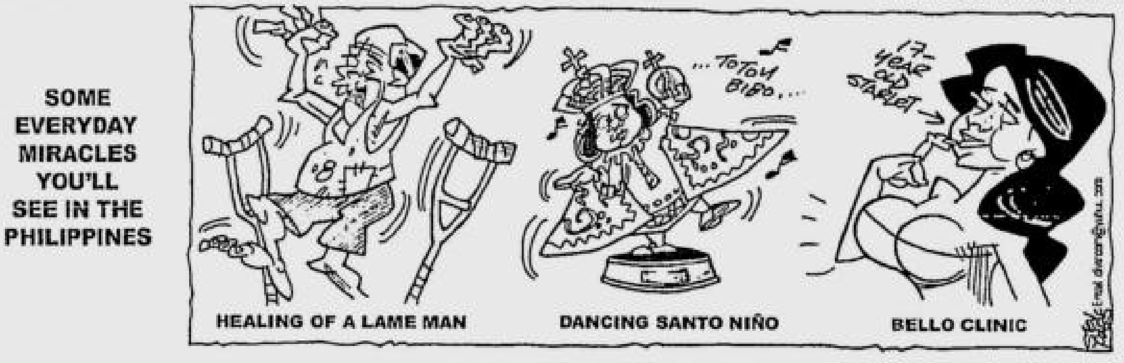
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO HOW'S YOUR GARBAGE CAN OF MENTAL CLUTTER ABSORBING YOUR PSYCHIC TRASH?
I FEEL INCREDIBLY LIGHT. THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD IS NO LONGER ON MY SHOULDERS!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I FEEL TALL!

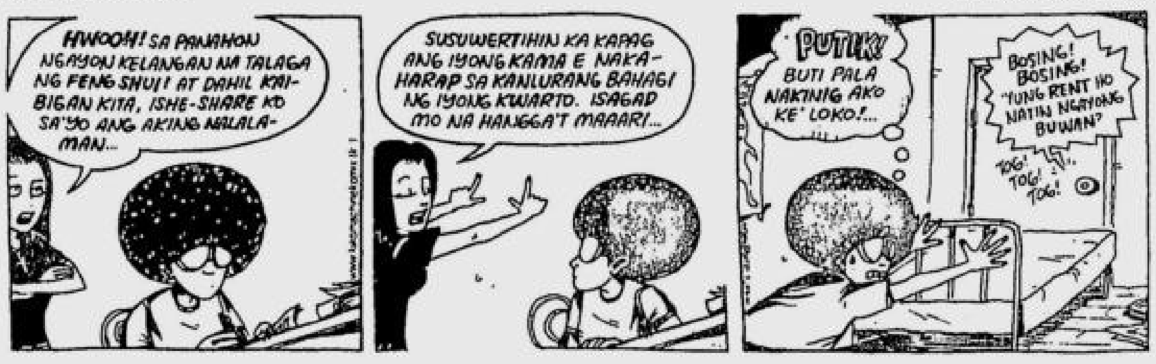
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SOME EVERYDAY MIRACLES YOU'LL SEE IN THE PHILIPPINES
...TOTOY BIBO,...
17-YEAR OLD STARLET
HEALING OF A LAME MAN
DANCING SANTO NIÑO
BELLO CLINIC

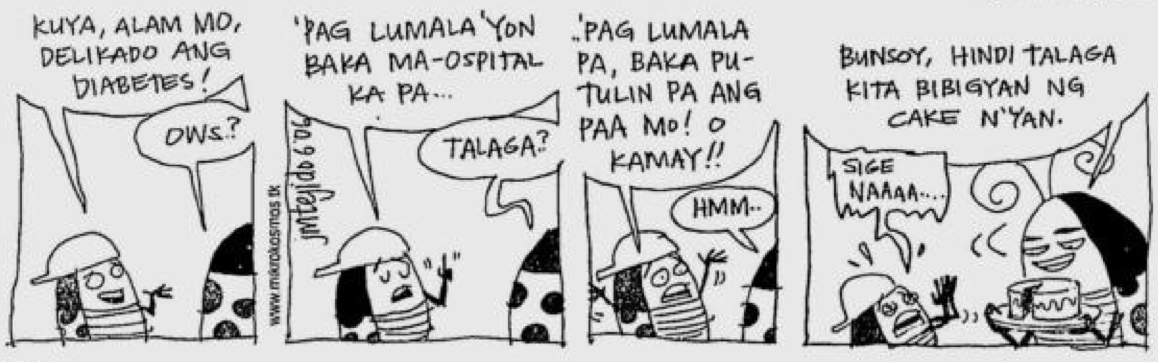
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! SA PANAHON NGAYON KELANGAN NA TALAGA NG FENG SHUI! AT DAHIL KAIBIGAN KITA, ISHE-SHARE KO SA'YO ANG AKING NALALAMAN...
SUSUWERTIHIN KA KAPAG ANG IYONG KAMA E NAKAHARAP SA KANLURANG BAHAGI NG IYONG KWARTO. ISAGAD MO NA HANGGA'T MAAARI...
PUTIK! BUTI PALA NAKINIG AKO KE' LOKO!...
BOSING! BOSING! 'YUNG RENT HO NATIN NGAYONG BUWAN?
TOG! TOG! TOG!

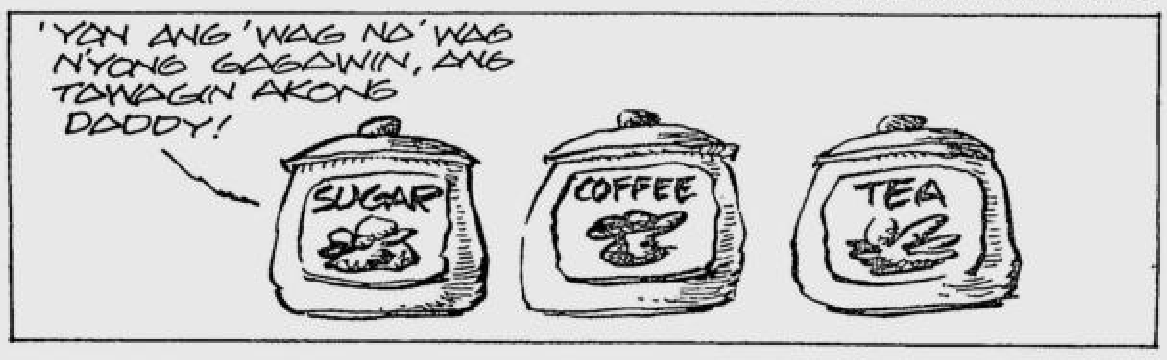
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUYA, ALAM MO, DELIKADO ANG DIABETES!
OWS..?
'PAG LUMALA 'YON BAKA MA-OSPITAL KA PA...
TALAGA?
'PAG LUMALA PA, BAKA PUTULIN PA ANG PAA MO! O KAMAY!!
HMM..
BUNSOY, HINDI TALAGA KITA BIBIGYAN NG CAKE N'YAN.
SIGE NAAAA...
www.mikrokosmos.tk

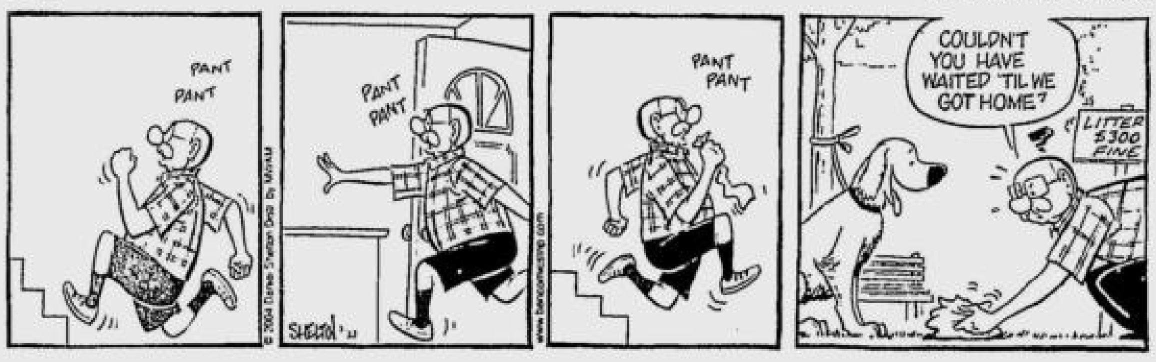
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'YON ANG 'WAG NO' WAG N'YONG GAGAWIN, ANG TAWAGIN AKONG DADDY!
SUGAR
COFFEE
TEA

BEN

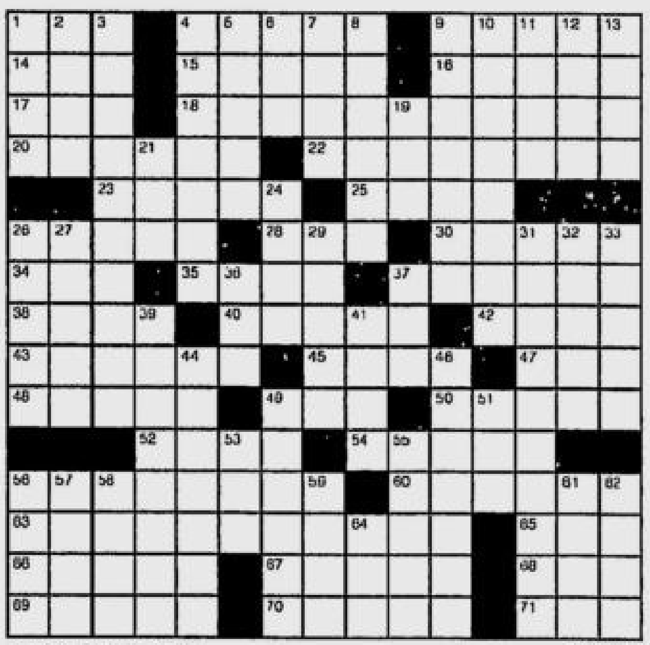
BY DANIEL SHELTON


PANT PANT
PANT PANT
PANT PANT
COULDN'T YOU HAVE WAITED 'TIL WE GOT HOME?
LITTER $300 FINE

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 RN's niceness
4 "Countdown" network
9 21st-century music players
14 Feel unwell
15 Garlic sauce
16 Oration spots
17 Poetic meadow
18 Lead on
20 "Serendipity" star John
22 Honey and Sugar, e.g.
23 Summer ermine
25 Faucet giant
26 Gem surface
28 Actress Lupino
30 Windows predecessor
34 Theol. belief
35 Miss in Sp.
37 Fanning of "Man on Fire"
38 Tiny bit
40 Word before 18A, 63A, 3D and 31D
42 Victor's cry
43 To the center
45 Let up
47 Actor Beatty
48 Judge Ito
49 Small viper
50 Unkempt
52 The gamut
54 News medium
56 Union general
60 Ms. Bergman
63 Producing a sustained effect
65 "Dune" composer
66 Dress type
67 Actress Barkin
68 Rose of Guns N' Roses
69 W. Hemisphere protection syst.
70 Warning
71 Hrs. in Colo.

DOWN
1 Sprinkle after a shower
2 Stead
3 School's cool fool
4 Good luck characters
5 Former Alaskan capital
6 Neither partner
7 Radar image
8 Movie theater
9 Getz hit, "The Girl from __"
10 "Chinatown" director
11 "Blue Moon" of baseball
12 Eat elegantly
13 Droops
19 Classic Pontiac letters
21 Chowed down
24 Small monkey
26 Delicate
27 MetLife rival
29 Challenges
31 With the current
32 Nebraska Sioux
33 Pitcher Koufax
36 Old postal letters
37 Sot's shakes
39 1990s dance
41 Warren of the NFL
44 Out of the rat race
46 Renowned
49 Spring bloomer
51 H.S. subject
53 Keats piece
55 Stair section
56 Ollie's partner
57 Big Island city
58 Bahrain ruler
59 Foster film
61 "Devil Inside" group
62 Blockhead
64 "Cakes and __"



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
7/21/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	E		T	M	E	N		C	H	O	R	D	S
A	W	N		R	A	M	A		L	A	R	I	A	T
L	O	B		U	N	I	T		E	M	B	O	D	Y
A	M	A	N	I	N	L	O	V	E	I	S			
M	A	N	E	S				E	S	T		E	V	A
I	N	C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E	U	N	T	I	L
				S	E	E	M			P	A	U	L	A
R	A	J	A		G	A	B	O	R		P	I	E	S
A	R	O	S	E				E	N	Y	A			
H	E	I	S	M	A	R	R	I	E	D	T	H	E	N
S	A	N		P	R	E				V	I	O	L	A
			H	E	I	S	F	I	N	I	S	H	E	D
A	L	G	O	R	E		I	D	A	S		O	V	I
G	A	M	B	O	L		A	L	S	O		H	E	N
A	C	T	O	R	S		T	E	A	R		O	N	E

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7/21/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bright and clever and always original. You dare to be different. You have a fine wit and are physically involved in your world. Many of you are performers. Excitement and thrills will always attract you. In your teens and 20s, you're quite dramatic. This is the year of letting go in order to make room for something new to enter. **Birthdate of:** Robin Williams, actor; Don Knotts, actor; Marshall McLuhan media theorist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next 10 weeks, you'll find it very easy to throw your energy into working hard in order to get things done. You'll take pride in how much you can accomplish!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): During the next two months, you'll be extra flirtatious and playful, and perhaps interested in sports. All kinds of amusements will appeal to you. Playful activities with children are likely. Romance is definitely favored! (Woo hoo.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): For whatever reason, increased activity and perhaps even chaos will take place where you live in the next few months. This could be due to visiting guests or renovations.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You'll notice the tempo of your everyday life accelerating during the next eight weeks. Your energy will be high. You'll also identify very strongly with your ideas and opinions.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're the last of the big-time spenders. In the next few months, you will definitely work harder to earn more money, and similarly, work harder to spend it!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): In the next 10 weeks, you'll find it easy to promote your own best interests and to assert yourself with others. Your physical energy will be high.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be patient with yourself and others if you feel vaguely irritable in the next two months. You might be disappointed at not getting credit for what you do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Give some strong thought to your goals. What do you want to accomplish in the next year? Identify these goals and discuss them with others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your ambition is definitely aroused now. You will work extremely hard to achieve whatever you want to get done. Avoid conflict with authority figures and parents.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You feel creatively intellectual. Some pretty far-out ideas are suddenly appealing to you. You want to know more about all this stuff.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel physically passionate in the next two months. However, you might run into conflict about shared possessions or how to spend a limited amount of money. (Is there any other kind?)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have an opportunity to cultivate patience in the next two months. Why? Because partners and close friends could be exasperating. (Oops.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

8					6	4		5
		5				1		
4	9				3		6	
7		3						
						2		1
	6		1				5	7
		1				6		
5		8	2					9

Difficulty Level ★★★★
7/21

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	4	1	3	5	6	7	2	8
8	5	2	7	9	4	6	3	1
3	7	6	2	1	8	9	4	5
7	9	3	1	2	5	8	6	4
4	2	5	8	6	9	1	7	3
6	1	8	4	3	7	5	9	2
1	6	4	5	7	3	2	8	9
2	8	9	6	4	1	3	5	7
5	3	7	9	8	2	4	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★
7-20

Talent fee with 'many, many zeroes'

RUSHES

ADRIAN GRENIER

"MANY, MANY ZEROES."

That was as much as singer-actress Sharon Cuneta would say about her talent fee as endorser of Sony Philippines' Sparkling WEGA (pronounced véga) CRT television sets.

There were other considerations, she insisted during the product launch on Wednesday. "You should know how I choose my endorsements. If I wished to retire early, all I'd have to do is say yes to all the offers." But she cared about which products her face would be attached to, she said. "Besides, Wega sounds like ... Mega!" she added, chuckling heartily. "And did you know that Wega is the name of the brightest star in the night sky?"

Of all those many, many zeroes... er, stars?

New addiction

GIRLS, let us tell you about a forthcoming new addiction. HBO and HBO Signature's new original series, "Entourage," debuts in Asia on July 30, 9 p.m. You don't know about Hollywood celebrity life until you see this one, about a hot young star whose career is just taking off. "Entourage" here refers to the young actor and his coterie of *alalays*. It stars Adrian Grenier, of "Drive Me Crazy," and is loosely based on the life of Mark Wahlberg and *his* entourage.

Wahlberg of "Boogie Nights"—also known as the Calvin Klein underwear that literally and figuratively overexposed himself—is, in fact, the series executive producer!

Bonding moments

WE'VE just been invited to a "bonding weekend." That's a rehearsal-workshop between the lead stars of this romantic movie—Robin Padilla and Regine Velasquez for GMA Films' (coprod with Viva Films) "Till I Met You." The two previously starred in "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw." How much more bonding are we talking about? *Abangan.*

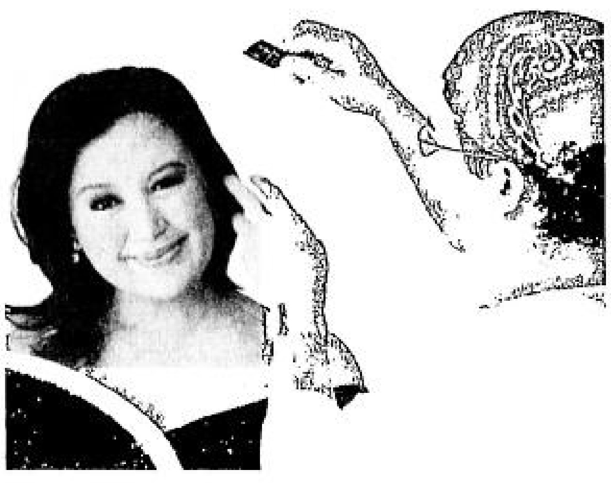
Sorry, Britney

LONDON—The National Enquirer celebrity magazine has apologized to Britney Spears in its British edition for reporting that the pop star was ready to divorce husband Kevin Federline.

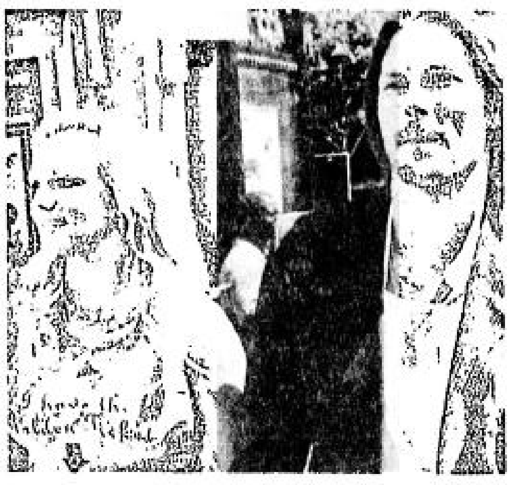
"In the 5th and 12th June 2006 issues of the UK Enquirer, we published articles under the headlines 'Britney Marriage is Over!' and 'Britney and Kevin: And Now Their Divorce!'" the Enquirer said in its latest edition on newsstands on Tuesday. "Contrary to what our articles might have suggested, we now accept that their marriage is not over." *Reuters*

Off and ... on!

LOS ANGELES—The on-again, off-again love affair between actress Pamela Anderson and singer Kid Rock is on again and this time they plan to marry. The former Playboy model and the Detroit rap-rocker will exchange vows on July 29 aboard a yacht near the French Riviera city of St. Tropez, the US Weekly reported. *Reuters*



FANNY Serrano preps Mega for Sony shoot.



BRITNEY SPEARS and Kevin Federline

TALK ABOUT RANGE
See these snapshots of Ai-Ai de las Alas? She went from teary to cheery in one minute flat, and INQUIRER Entertainment was there—at Imus Productions' victory party for "Kapag Tumibok ang Puso—Not Once, But Twice"—to witness it. Photo 1) Ai-Ai is asked about the recent breakup with her boyfriend. Photo 2) We take it she was upset. Photo 3) Okay, maybe just a little. RYAN LI

'No sex please, we're Indian'

CHEER FACTOR

MUMBAI—INDIA IS TO SCREEN its own chaste celebrity version of the television reality show "Big Brother" with a strict ban on canoodling between the stars, the show's producer said Tuesday.

The makers of the show—a worldwide hit and a rich vein of office gossip—are targeting cricketers, television stars and Bollywood actors to make up the six men and six women for the program to be screened later this year.

But the producers said their show would not follow some of the bawdier aspects of the program seen in other countries including frolics in spas and sex between wannabe stars.

"Explicit physical stuff is not acceptable to Indian audiences," said Rajesh Kamat, managing director of Endemol India.

"They can just hold hands I suppose—that would be deemed sex." Kissing—or liplocking as it is known in the Indian media—is never shown on television, even between married couples, although serial plotlines are full of emotional drama, infidelity and pregnancy out of wedlock.

Big Brother was first shown in the Netherlands in 1999 with the format based on 12 people living in a house, cut off from the world, with television viewers voting on who should be evicted. It has since been shown in some 70 countries, including the Philippines.

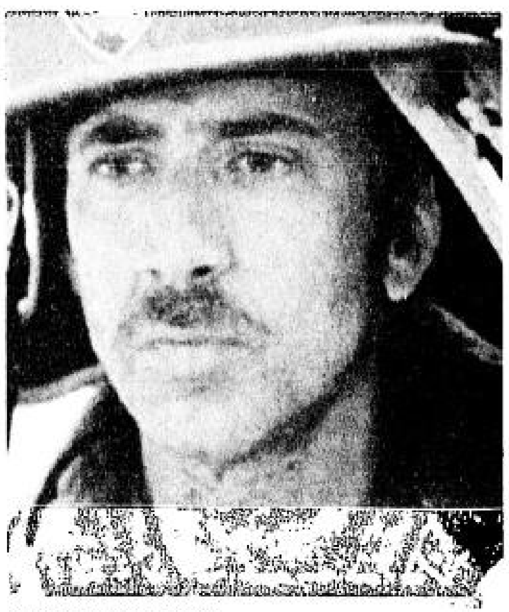
"Putting together people willing to give up their personal life or privacy would in itself be something that would get us into a controversy," said Kamat.

"The controversies we would get into would be at an absolutely basic level. Can a Bollywood actress give up her phone?"

Few couples live together before marriage in conservative India and pre-marital is sex is not discussed in public, particularly in traditional rural areas.

On the party circuit in cities like Mumbai and New Delhi, public shows of affection are regularly snapped by celebrity photographers and relationships between acting stars feature strongly in the gossip columns. *AFP*

MICHAEL PEÑA



NICHOLAS CAGE

A first look at 'World Trade ...'

From page A2-1

from inside their minds and that of their families and rescuers.

What were you doing during 9/11?

I was asleep in LA and my wife woke me up to tell me to turn on the television. I was, as everyone else was, surprised, shocked and horrified. I didn't dwell on it ... because I think the whole country kind of got crazy about it, got into a media event of O.J. Simpson proportions and beyond. I never watched more than 20 minutes of television in one sitting, I swear. Okay, maybe 30.

What's your stand on how we responded to 9/11?

I've said it in October 2001 and I've never backed down from it because there's no reason to. In essence, the consequences of that day are far worse than that day. We can get into the reasons in another forum.

You mentioned that the climate was not right in this country for a film that takes a hard look at 9/11. Can you talk about the right time, the right subject, the right movie to have an impact?

I don't know whether films do have an impact. I did "Platoon" and, as you know, I went around the world with it. I did "Born on the Fourth of July." That, too, went around the world. "Heaven and Earth" was less [successful], but those two films about Vietnam did not stop Iraq from happening. Many of the young [soldiers] over in Iraq now don't even know "Platoon" so I have a perspective about the power of work. You do the best you can, you put it out there and you can't expect it necessarily to be heard or even to last. All you can do is your best. "Killing Fields" was made five years after the Cambodian genocide. I felt that was very effective timing. I would have done "Platoon" five, 10 years earlier if I could.

Do you think the moviegoers can appreciate "World Trade Center" purely as a human story, separate it from its political aspects?

That's a valid question because certainly, the event was so politicized, that the whole world has been [equally] politicized. The United States told its allies, "You're with us or you're against us." That's a very cowboy point of view (laughter). Audiences could bring their ideology to the movie but it's not about that. It's about that day only, and it should make you demythologize the event.

If you bring your ideologies to the movie, you're going to see something else. John and Will are politically different from me but we never discussed politics. I'm sorry to disappoint you, but not everything is political. We make movies, and sometimes you see people who hate each other in the disaster situation end up liking and helping each other. That's what movies are about. Humanity. The need to get along. The need to love, the need to interconnect. Corny as that sounds, it's a defensible position. And as I get older, I find it to be more so.

Whether you like it or not, you have become a historian of sorts. In the light of what's happening now, do you think the United States is learning its lesson?

When "Alexander" failed, I was accused of blaming the Americans for not studying history (laughter). I don't think there is much interest in history. Judging from American television, the way it plays out, it's mostly commercials and history is done in a strange way. I don't know that history has ever been the subject of American interest. "Alexander" did very good business abroad. We were in the top 20 overseas so there is definitely a disconnect on history in the US.

Fidel Castro, about whom my documentary "Comandante" is and which has still not been released (laughter), said to me, "History does repeat itself but it never is recognizable to those living it." For any Vietnam veteran who recognized the futility of the Vietnam War, it's heartbreaking to have lived through these last few years. Part of the reason I was so happy to get out of the country and do "Alexander" was to get away from the war mind-set and go back to the original East-West conflict.

You are talking about the most essential question, how anybody learns. What is evolution? Is it forgetting or remembering? These are deep questions. Maybe we have to forget some things in order to go on. Maybe the kids out there who watch "The OC," "Smallville" and Warner Brothers television know nothing about the world. Maybe evolution-wise, they are meant to be a new generation and there's a thing going on here that we don't understand. The computer was born artificial and the whole concept of artificial information is exactly that—it is artificial. It's passing on information. But how accurate is it?

Oh, there was a story today in the paper about textbooks. [The story] made fun of how 9/11 was described to the children—so sanitized, so Disney! What is history? Who makes it up? My point is, eyewitnesses should be trusted the most, as when I made "Platoon." Trust the people who went to combat, such as myself. Trust the people who were in Dealey Plaza (in "JFK"). Listen to those people instead of to all the talking heads.

Is there a need for this film more than ever because the lessons from 9/11 seem to be fading from memory?

Well said. If the film works and helps people go back and recognize reality, it could help. I used that analogy with "Platoon" and it had a tremendous impact. You'd think that people would say, we're not going to fight wars like this. We're going to avoid this stuff and then 10 years later, they're making movies like "Pearl Harbor." The mood drifted back to a more militaristic phase ... and we see the effects of it today.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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STARS Living

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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ALYANNA Martinez in a Barge Ramos gown; dad Albert Martinez in Bergamo

KIM CHIU/ Cecilio Bertumen

NENE TAMAYO/ Bing Cristobal

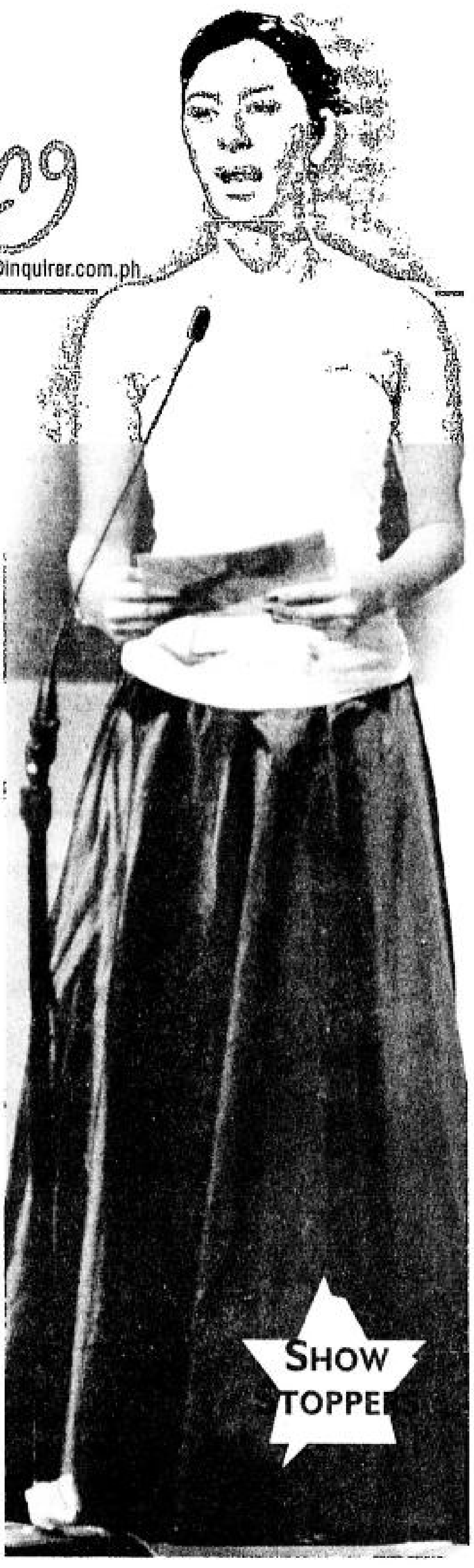
Not-so-casual chic

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Romy Homillada

RTW AND COUTURE WERE MIXED AND matched at the recent 9th Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino Awards held at the ABS-CBN studios.

Most of the stars came in designer duds, but some opted for the casual chic mood set by "Pinoy Big Brother" host Bianca Gonzalez who did a "Sharon Stone," combining an off-the-rack corset from Top Shop with a hoop skirt by Rajo Laurel.

Similarly, young singing champ Sam Concepcion's outfit was from a department store in Seoul, Korea, where the teener performed with the Playshop Kids at the Korean World Trade Travel Fair in June.



SHOW TOPPE

BIANCA Gonzalez's corset by Top Shop, hoop skirt by Rajo Laurel

KORINA Sanchez /Rajo Laurel

SHARON Cuneta/ Paul Cabral

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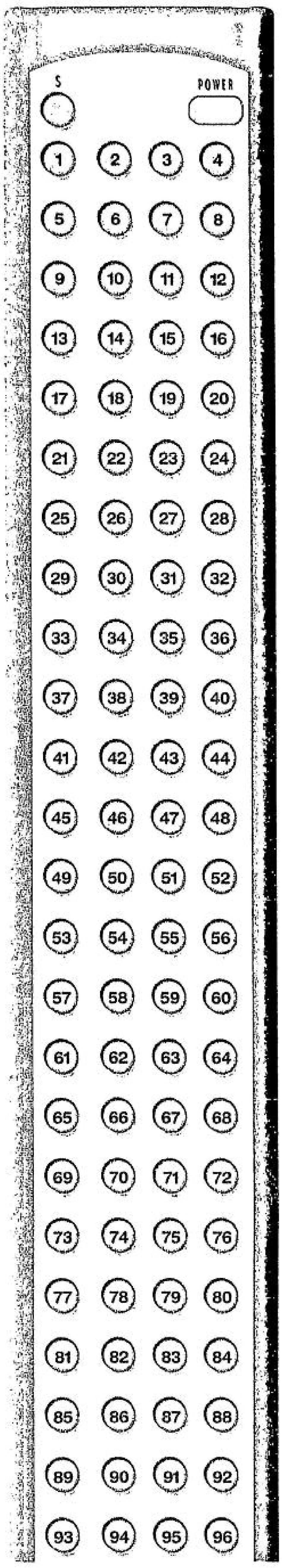

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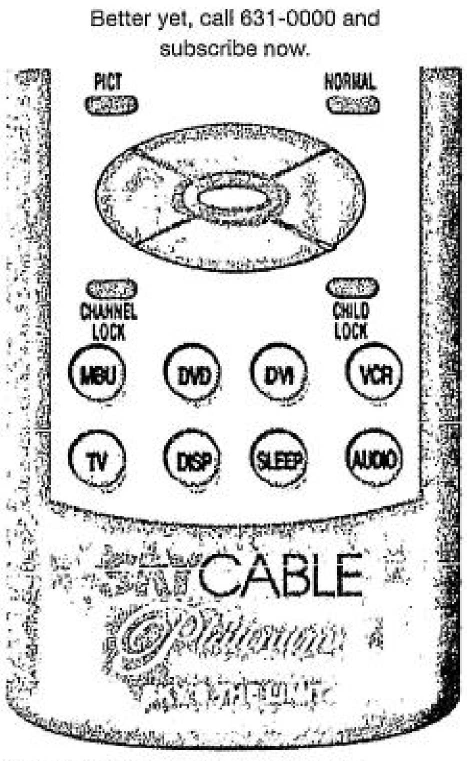

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JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

JANICE DE BELEN
Tyler is a chow chow. He's now 1 year and 8 months old. Meemee, my assistant, gave him to me. I spoil him rotten. *Sobra!* I feed him whatever is in our dinner table—*kahit hindi dapat*. I personally bring him to his vet. Whenever I go abroad, I buy him all sorts of *pasalubong*, like a new chew bone or a bag of treats.

Marinel R. Cruz

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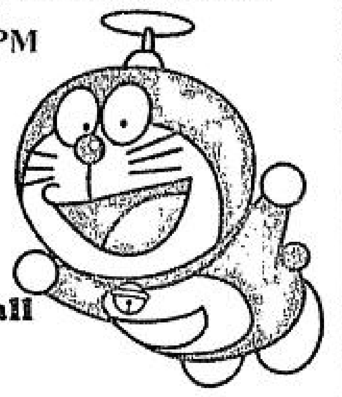

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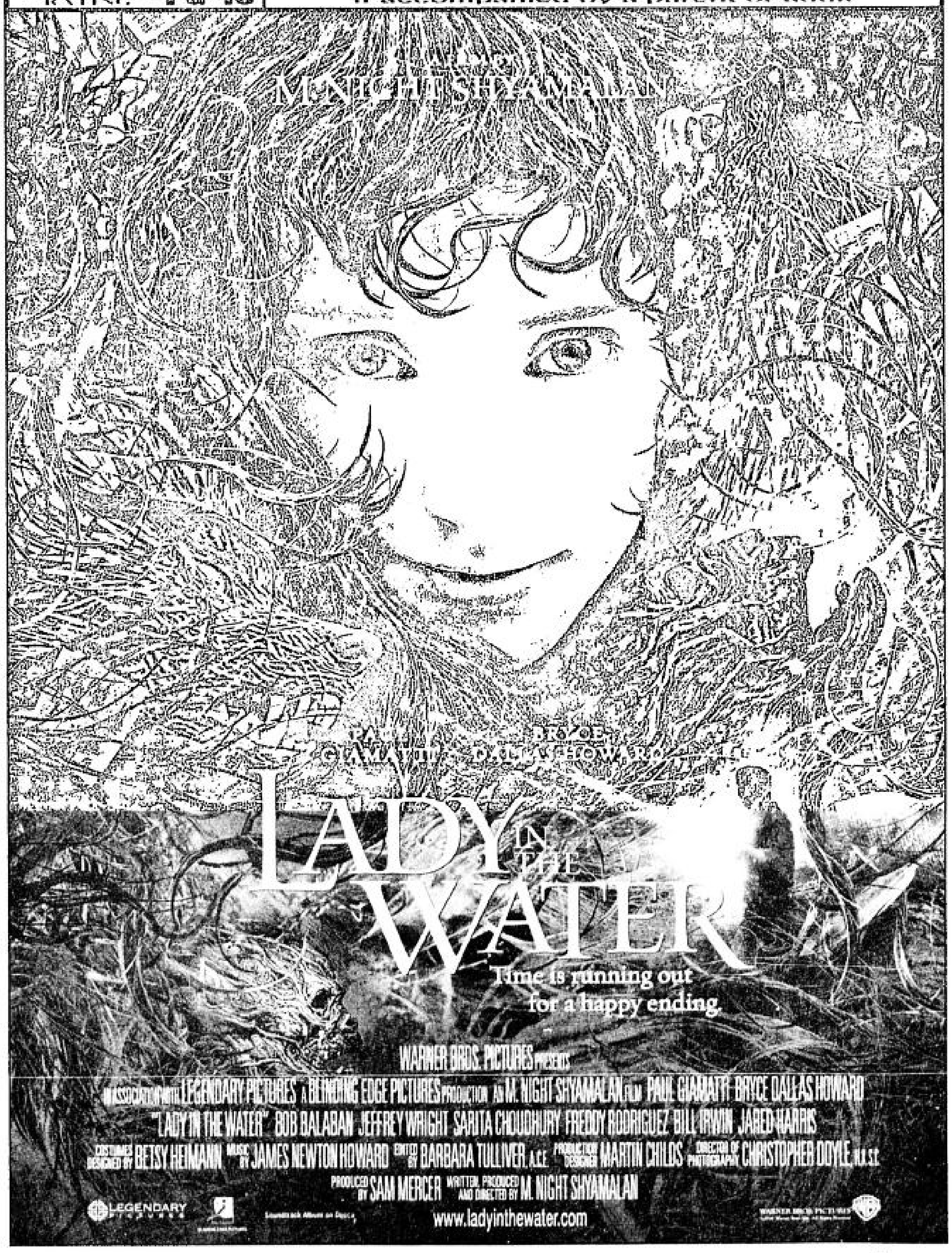
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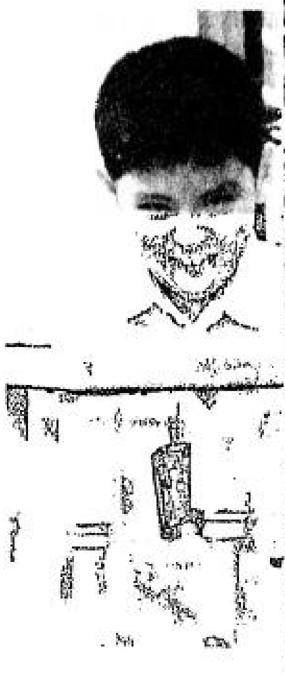

PRECOCIOUS new disco
Capili portrays Maricel's s

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olphy and real-life son Vandolph play John and Atong in this

MOMMY DEAREST. Maricel Soriano says she looks up to Susan Roces like a real mother.

GINA de Venecia, center, with DSWD Undersecretary Alice Bala and Dr. Honey Carandang, psychologist

INA founders Ali Sotto and Gina de Venecia, left; honorary member Darius Razon, right

ery Ivan
on.

'We are family'

SNEAK PEEK

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz

QUITE NATURALLY, THE new sitcom "John En Shirley," produced by KB Entertainment and the Kapamilya network, is a family affair.

The first taping day last week, was "like gathering for Sunday lunch with the clan," said Maricel Soriano, a.k.a. Shirley. "It didn't feel like work at all. It was like magic. We kept laughing and chatting between takes."

It could be because they had all missed working together, Maricel explained. "Dolphy was my *tatay* (father) on 'John & Marsha' for almost two decades."

Classic comedy

As director Bert de Leon put it, Maricel literally grew up on the set of "John & Marsha," the comedy classic that ran from 1973 to 1990.

In the late 1970s, Direk Bert was working on the shows "Todas" and "Iskul Bukol," right next door to "John & Marsha" in Broadcast City.

"I used to visit the 'John & Marsha' set and I would shoot the breeze with Mang Dolphy," he recalled. "Every chance I got, I watched director Ading Fernando at work."

He met Maricel when she was still in pigtails and bobby socks. "I composed the theme song of the children's show 'Kaluskos Musmos,' where Maricel was one of the lead stars."

"John En Shirley" is produced by Kitchie Benedicto ("My boss when I was a kid," mused Maricel), whose family's station KBS 9 was the original home of "John & Marsha" and "Kaluskos Musmos." Thus, in a lot of ways, it was a "homecoming" for Maricel.

On the other hand, the last time Maricel worked with Susan Roces was in the 1986 Regal movie, "Inday, Inday sa Balitaw," playing mother and daughter. "This time, she's my mother-in-law," Maricel said. "But we love each other on this show." Which made taping a breeze, she added, as they are like mother-and-daughter in real life.

There was just one sad note, Maricel said—missing "Mommy Marsha." That's actress Nida Blanca, who passed away five years ago.

Pick-up point

This spin-off is picking up where the original left off. Although Shirley is now married, she insists on taking care of dad John after the death of her mom and her brother Rolly's migration to the United States.

"I've always been partial to family shows," Direk Bert said. "This sitcom will show how a father and child's roles are reversed when the parent grows old."

"It's a comedy, but also about real life," Maricel explained. "It teaches us that laughter can make all problems bearable."

Three of a kind

PARTY! PARTY!

THIS BEST DESCRIBES CELEBrity parents Gina de Venecia, Ali Sotto and Darius Razon, who each had to deal with grief over the tragic loss of a child.

Gina and Ali have founded Inang Naulila sa Anak (INA) Foundation to help mothers recover from such despair.

During INA's recent get-together, Gina and Ali welcomed Darius Razon as their first honorary member.

"Darius, you are not alone," said Gina. "We are one with you in prayer—that you may have the strength to overcome this most painful and unspeakable ordeal."

The assembly was held at the De Venecia's veranda. Earlier, 15 mothers met at the Valencia Garden in Sampaguita Studios to form this support group. INA's flagship project is a healing center expected to open by the end of the year at the DSWD main compound in Batasan Hills.

Said Gina: "It will be a place where orphaned mothers can be together, with social workers who will help them process their grief."

INA's goal is to organize local chapters in every municipality, creating "grief counselors" at the barangay level.

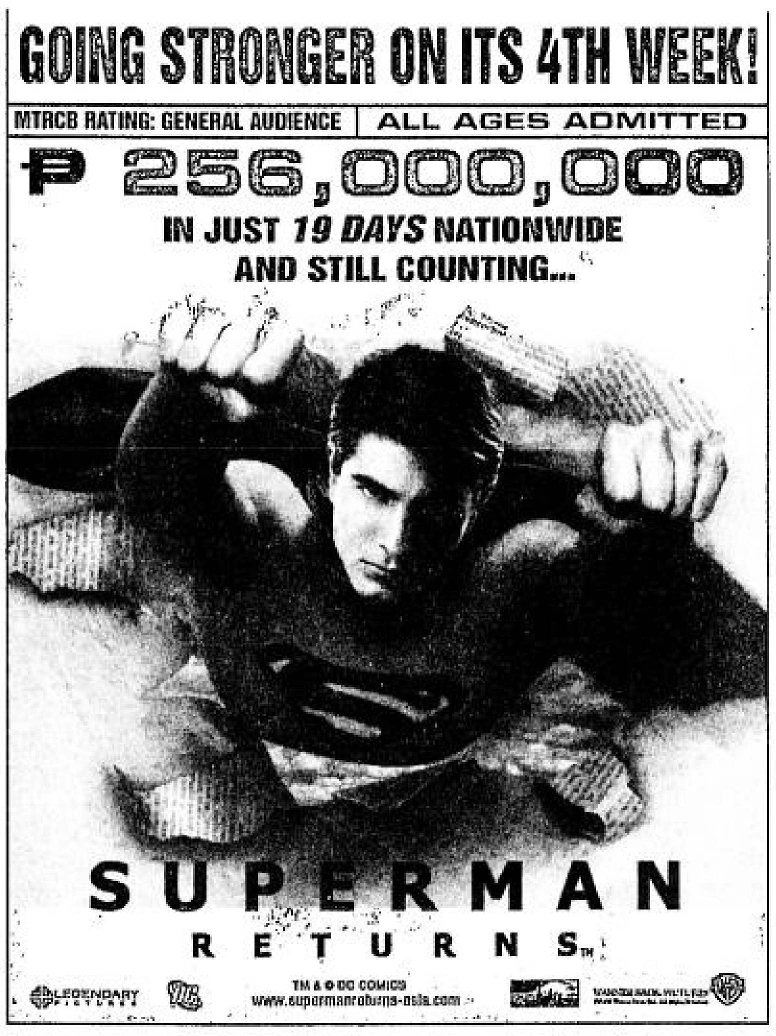
DOLPHY in a scene with commercial model Richie Macapagal, who topped the auditions to play Shirley's husband.

KITCHIE BENEDICTO, boss of the original series, here with Pidol and Maricel, line-produces the new sitcom.

SUSAN rehearses with Noel Trinidad, who plays her husband.

SIBLING REVELRY. Vandolph and Ate Maricel share a light moment.

CLAIRE SALVADOR-BAKER, another newcomer, is cast as Maricel's daughter.



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Fashion & *romance*

SHOW STOPPERS

STEADY COUPLE Jericho Rosales and Heart Evangelista are now seen on billboards all over the country as image models for Penshoppe. Stars Living had a chat with them during breaks in this exclusive fashion pictorial.

PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

Describe your fashion sense?

Jericho: Cool casual, funky, go with the groove. I also like the classic look.

Heart: Very casual, but elegant.

Are you brand conscious?

J: I wear just about anything. It's how one handles himself that makes him a good dresser. He has to be confident, but *hindi mayabang*.

H: I'm very flexible. I'm not *maarte* with brands, although it makes me feel good to know I can buy expensive stuff.

Who are your fashion idols?

J: *Astig si* Lenny Kravitz. I also like Jamiroquai.

H: I like Sienna Miller, Lindsay Lohan, Natalie Portman and Jessica Simpson.

How have your idols influenced the way you dress?

J: I don't idolize them because of their looks. It's their music and the way they move that I like. I get turned off by people who dress well *pero pangit ang ugali*.

H: Jessica is 5'3"—an inch taller than me. I am encouraged when I see her in outfits that I wouldn't normally think I can wear.

Are you big on accessories?

E: I don't just use them. They have to mean something to me.

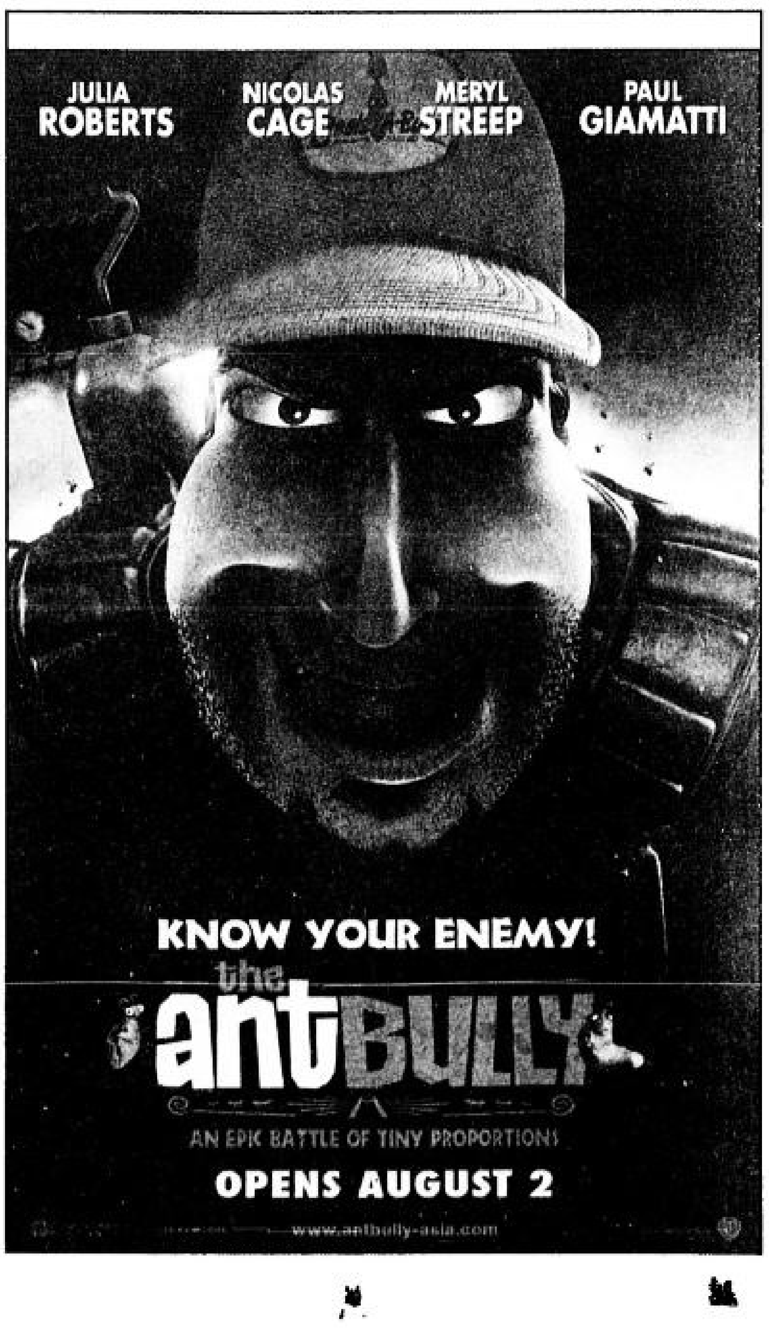
H: Yes I am. The bigger, the better for me, especially when my dress or blouse is very plain.

STYLIST: JOHN MAGSAYSAY
LOCATION: PEOPLE'S PALACE AND GREENBELT PARK, MAKATI CITY
CLOTHES BY PENSHOPPE

John says:

We patterned Heart's look after The Pussycat Dolls (left photo). She wears two tops—a striped pink-and-gray tank and a plain pink one—over brown cargo cropped pants. Plus a trucker cap. (Strappy high heels are Heart's.) Jericho wears a western-looking top and Distressed (a Penshoppe line) denims.

At right, Heart goes for the '80s look—shirt with petunia prints under a purple knit bolero with puff sleeves. We got Trinkets (Penshoppe accessories line) for her to wear as belts. She also wears chandelier earrings. Echo is in a green, white and brown sporty shirt. To make it pop out, we threw in a red bandana!



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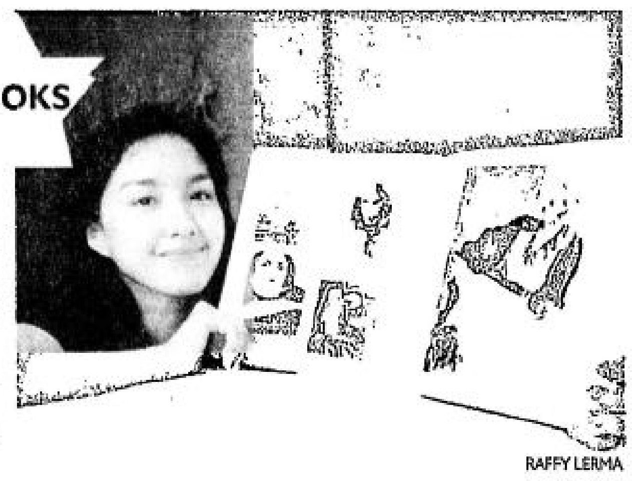


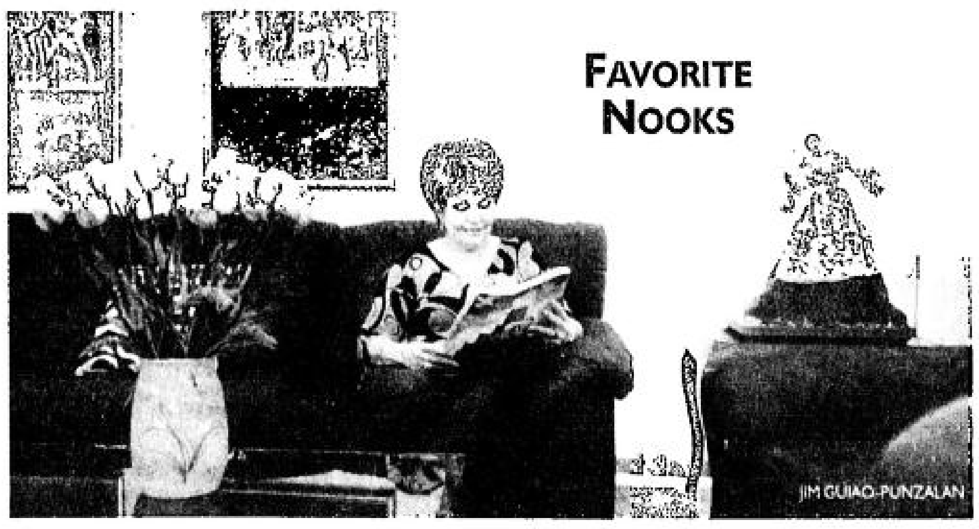
RAFFY LERMA

TONY BACON'S "THE ULTIMATE Guitar Book" is one of my favorites. I got this for my birthday two years ago. The book has a very detailed history of the guitar. It features photographs of famous, rare and vintage guitars and stories of all the famous guitar makers.

I also own a copy of "Joni Mitchell: The Complete Poems and Lyrics." She is one of my favorite songwriters.

Marinel R. Cruz

FAVORITE NOOKS



JIM GUIAO-PUNZALAN

Pilita Corrales

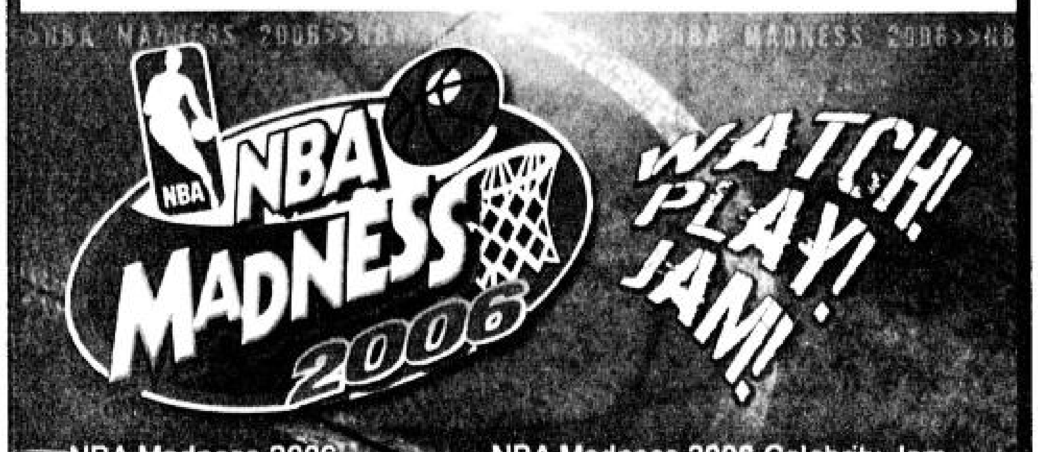
MOST OF MY MEETINGS are done at the restaurant, Pilita's, in Greenhills, San Juan. Mostly, I'm home only when my grandchildren are here. The living room is their favorite place. They run around and jump up and down the couch a lot. Favorite space *ko na rin ito*.

Marinel R. Cruz

DID YOU KNOW...

DEFINE METHOD acting.

GMA Films is reportedly renting a whole ranch in Tagaytay for its latest romantic movie starring Robin Padilla and Regine Velasquez. Robin is said to have announced his intention to stay there—hang his hat, park his boots, toothbrush and coffee (or beer) mug, et cetera—for the whole duration of the shoot. To imbibe his character's lifestyle, that's all.



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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 1:00 / 4:00 / 7.00 / 10:00
LADY IN THE WATER 12:20 / 2:10 / 2:45 / 4:35 5:10 / 7:00 / 7:35 / 9:25 / 10:00
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ALIMALL 5

1 RUNAWAY VACATION 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:45
2 LADY IN THE WATER 1:15 / 3:40 / 6:05 / 8:30
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
4 WHITE LADY 12:10 RM / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
5 NACHO LIBRE 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
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Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA•ERMITA•METRO EAST
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It has a sentimental storyline about a young girl named Blue (Nina Siemaszko) who is forced into prostitution by economic circumstances. She tries to live a double life in and out of the brothel and, in a vaguely Elizabethan twist, ends up providing paid pleasure to her dream man while she is in disguise.

The knowledge Blue gains while in disguise allows her to evaluate her lover's sincerity later on. With the aid of a sympathetic brothel bodyguard Sully, Blue escapes the hold exerted on her by the madam, leaves town, and tries to establish herself as a high school student - in the same high school where her dream boy is the school quarterback! They end up courting one another chastely, although he remains unaware that he has already had sex with her. Meanwhile, the jilted madam wants Blue back, and will stop at nothing to get her.

MTRCB Rating: R-18

For SCREENING SCHEDULE, pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIEWORLD

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	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS		
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 LADY IN THE WATER	2 NACHO LIBRE	3 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4 LOVEWRECKED	5 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
	7 SUPERMAN RETURNS		
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LADY IN THE WATER	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX LADY IN THE WATER 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 2:05, 5:10, 8:15, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:45, 4:50, 7:55, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 12:45, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	
	3 LADY IN THE WATER	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 LADY IN THE WATER	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION
	4 NACHO LIBRE		
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 WHITE LADY	
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▨ **Coco exports up** 12.4% as of May /B2

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Gov't bucks lifting of VAT on oil imports

Finance says move will weaken fiscal position

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF Finance said it was not amenable to lift the value-added tax on oil, stressing it would only aggravate, instead of solve, the impact on the economy of skyrocketing oil prices in the international market.

"We are just starting to enjoy the benefits of higher revenues," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters. Removing the VAT on oil while the government was in the middle of its fiscal reform agenda would thwart the momentum toward fiscal stability, the official explained.

The economy would be in double jeopardy if the government would lift the VAT on oil, Beltran said. While high oil prices could weaken the peso and therefore bloat the government's foreign-denominated debts, lifting the VAT on oil would plug a major source of revenue for the government that is still trying to wipe out a huge budget deficit.

The increasing oil prices, brought by the ongoing geopolitical conflict between Israel and Lebanon, has a weakening impact on currencies especially of oil import-dependent countries like the Philippines. This is because the higher dollar cost of oil would mean more demand for the foreign currency.

Price of Dubai crude, the benchmark used in setting domestic oil prices, has already hovered at an average of $63 a barrel and breached the $70-a-barrel mark. Under the government's macroeconomic assumptions for 2006, Dubai crude was estimated to settle at an average of only $62 a barrel.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition and other militant groups have called on the government to

GOV'T/B2

Survey says RP execs more optimistic

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BUSINESSMEN APPEAR TO BE "MORE OPTIMISTIC" about economic prospects in the country this year but are also more stressed out, according to auditing firm Punongbayan & Araullo, a member of global financial adviser Grant Thornton International.

Punongbayan yesterday released the results of Grant's International Business Owners Survey (IBOS) for 2006, an annual international poll carried out among more than 7,000 owners of medium-sized businesses from 30 countries during the fourth quarter of 2005. IBOS began in 2002. The survey examines attitudes, plans and trends among business owners.

In the Philippines, Grant sampled 150 business owners of medium-sized firms or those with about 50 to 199 employees.

A total of 70 percent of business owners in the Philippines feel that this year will be a better year, an improvement from the 50 percent of respondents who felt the same way in 2005.

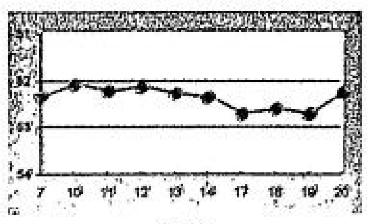
Punongbayan managing partner Gregorio S. Navarro said the "optimism" was hinged on hopes that government revenues would be boosted by increased tax collection from the passage of a law imposing a 12-percent value-added tax (eVAT) on goods.

Navarro also said that businessmen tended to believe that there was "momentum" in the growth of the Philippine economy. Economic growth in the past decade has averaged 3.8 percent a year, modest by the standards of Asian developing countries, Grant said in a research report. However, in the past four years, economic growth accelerated, exceeding 5 percent a year, boosted by agricultural harvests, strong exports and buoyant consumer spending. This is expected to slow down slightly from the 5.1 percent growth rate in 2005 to 4.7 percent in 2006.

SURVEY/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JULY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.29 = $1

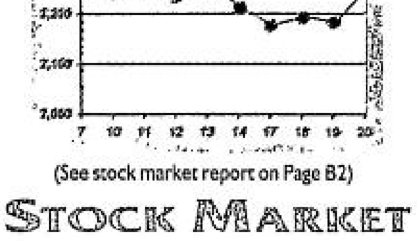
As of 5 p.m., July 20, 2006

¥116.78 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 20, 2006

GOLD: **$639.40-639.90**

per ounce Hong Kong, July 20, 2006



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Shares jump 3%

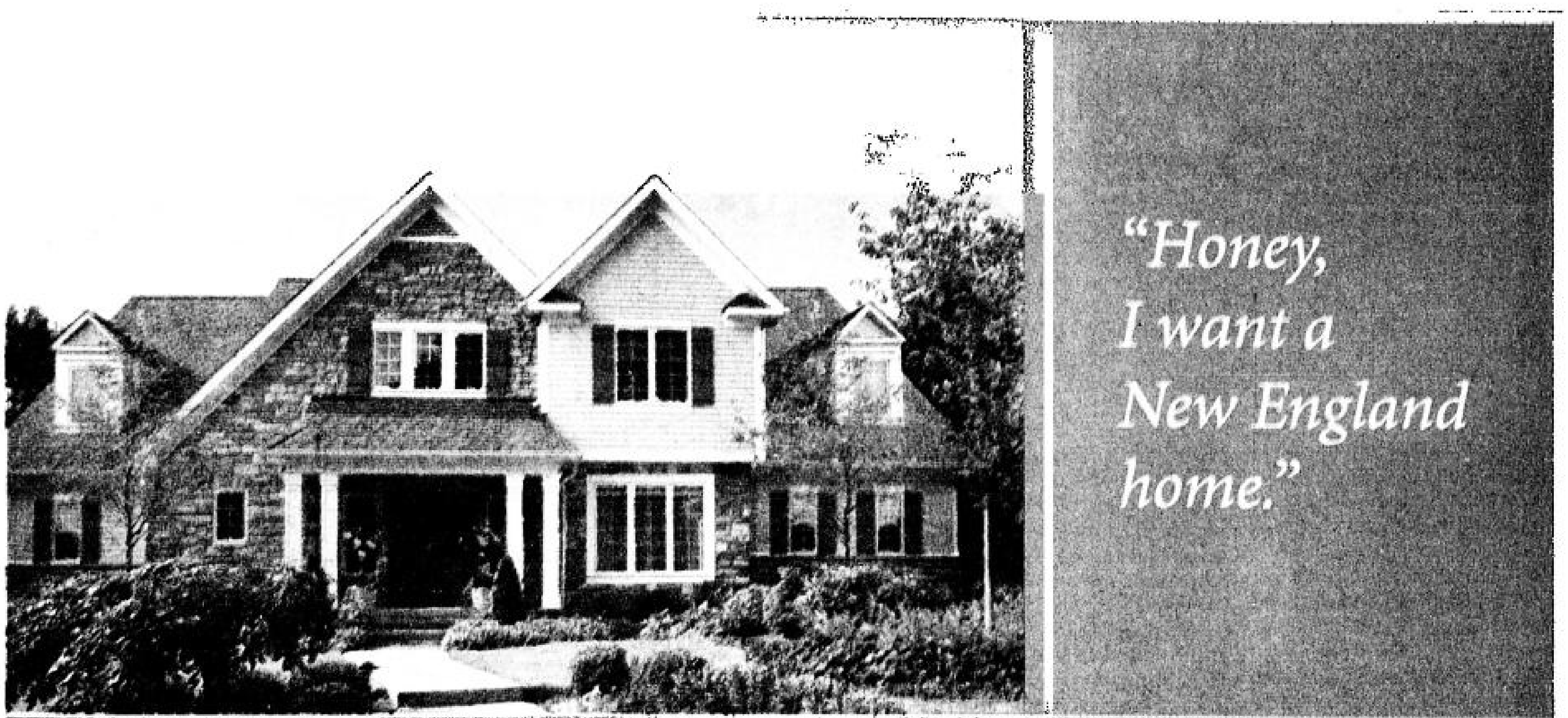
SHARES ADVANCED SHARPLY yesterday on expectations the cycle of US interest rate increases may soon end after the testimony of Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 65.83 points, or 3 percent, to 2,247.40, after shedding 0.5 percent Wednesday.

Bernanke's testimony to the Senate banking committee suggested that the Fed may be near the end of its two-year campaign to raise interest rates.

In the Philippines, there are concerns the US economy and interest rates will impact lo-

SHARES/B2



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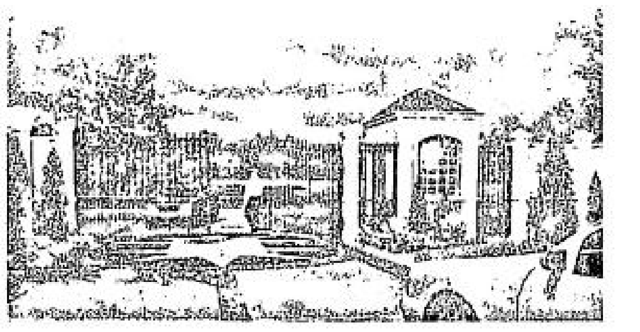

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Coco exports up 12.4% as of May

Coconut oil, copra top exports in first 5 months

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EXPORT VOLUMES OF COCONUT-based products were up 12.4 percent in the first five months as shipments of coconut oil and copra meal continued to increase, according to an industry report.

Preliminary data from the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines showed that the total volume posted between January and May reached 904,351 metric tons compared to 804,319 MT last year.

Coconut oil remained the top export with shipments growing 16.8 percent to 365,028 MT as of end-May while copra meal cargo were up 28.9 percent to 196,461 MT.

On the other hand, outbound desiccated or dehydrated coconut shipments shrank 9.3 percent to 47,479 MT while exports of oleochemicals went down 8.7 percent to 50,199 MT.

Ucap data further showed that while growth of volumes was maintained, export earnings in May dropped 13.8 percent to about $64 million—excluding revenues from the sale of oleochemicals—because of a "substantial drop" in border prices.

Volumes for May rose 9 percent to 191,961 in copra terms, with coconut oil and copra meal showing record gains for that month.

Coconut oil shipments grew 14.4 percent to 104,656 MT in May, accounting for some 54.5 percent of total cargo in that period.

Also, copra meal cargo reached 42,844 MT in May or an increase of more than half the volume shipped out in the same month of 2005.

However, exports of desiccated coconut slid 27.7 percent to 8,189 MT while those of oleochemicals shrank 2 percent to 13,180 MT.

In May, Europe remained the top market for coconut oil as it gobbled up 47,218 MT or 45 percent of total shipments.

The United States was the second biggest buyer with 38,502 MT or 36.8 percent while other destinations such as Malaysia Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan and China each bought less than 7 percent of May cargo.

South Korea and Vietnam shared the total volume of copra meal sent out, with the former getting four-fifths at 34,369 MT.

Peso seen to take a beating

By Michelle V. Remo

HONG KONG SHANGHAI BANKing Corp. (HSBC) said the peso could take a beating from the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, as the uncertainty abroad might dampen investment sentiment on emerging economies like the Philippines.

"We don't expect the market to be confident," said Wick Veloso, HSBC treasurer and head of global markets. "It does not make sense for [investors] to place their money in emerging economies."

Early in the year, HSBC projected that, barring economically adverse events like oil price volatility, the peso could strengthen to as much as 48 to a dollar due to the improving fiscal condition of the government.

But Veloso said that the recent air strikes in Lebanon and Hezbollah's rocket attacks in Israel, have created uncertainty in the international financial markets, making the movements of foreign exchange less predictable.

The Middle East accounts for about a third of the world's oil supply.

Also, Veloso said that the international financial market is not fully convinced that the United States Federal Reserve will stop raising US interest rates.

He said that the rise in oil prices creates inflationary pressures which the US Fed could not easily ignore.

The US Fed rate now stands at 5.25 percent following a series of hikes implemented since 2004. The rate increases reflected the Fed's tough stance against inflation.

Manila Water sees better earnings in second half

By Christine A. Gaylican

EAST CONCESSIONAIRE MANILA Water Co. Inc. (MWCI) expects its earnings to be better in the second semester with its billed volume more than doubling to 917 million liters per day (MLD) as of July from 440 million liters per day (MLD), a ranking company official said.

The company's aggressive capital expenditure program, efforts to reduce water losses and improvement in the efficiency of the distribution network helped improve MWCI's billed volumes, said MWCI president Antonino T. Aquino in an interview.

Another key factor to the company's increased billed volume is the connection into its system of 850,000 customers belonging to the low income group under the company's 'Tubig para sa Barangay' project.

Aquino said MWCI had invested P17.54 billion from 1997 to 2005 to improve its systems, which had significantly reduced its nonrevenue water from 63 percent to 33.9 percent as of March this year.

Company data showed that 97 percent of the east zone, which is serviced by MWCI, was now enjoying 24-hour water availability. He said the company would further expand its coverage to include Rodriguez, San Mateo, Antipolo and other Rizal towns.

Manila Water is completing the construction of three new pumping stations and the installation of pipelines for the P2-billion Antipolo Water Supply Project. This project is expected to benefit one million people.

MWCI supplies water and sewerage services to the east zone of Metro Manila, including parts of Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Mandalaluyong, Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, Taguig, Pateros, and a portion of Rizal province.

China mobile phone maker gets into RP

By Abigail L. Ho

ZTE CORP, CHINA'S LARGEST listed telecommunications equipment maker, will enter the Philippine mobile handset market and provide low-cost third generation (3G) cellular phones.

Christian Villareal, sales manager at the ZTE Philippine Representative Office, said one of the barriers to the adoption of the 3G platform was the high price of handsets.

With the entry of ZTE into the local handset market, Villareal said mobile phone users would have a lower-priced alternative, enabling them to upgrade to 3G without having to shell out that much cash.

Some of ZTE's 3G handsets cost around $200 on average, or roughly P5,000 to P10,000, he said.

Right now, he said, ZTE is in talks with mobile operators Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecom Inc. and Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc.'s Sun Cellular for the inclusion of ZTE handsets in their mobile phone lineup.

Apart from entering the local handset market, ZTE is also planning to market its 3G/WCDMA (wideband code division multiple access)/HSDPA (high-speed downlink packet access) end-to-end solutions to the country's four 3G license holders.

Villareal said ZTE is talking to Smart, Globe and Sun Cellular for the supply of 3G network equipment for their future expansion.

RP, Austria to build railway school

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE AND AUSTRIAN governments yesterday signed a technology transfer agreement that will the pave the way for the establishment of a Philippine National Railways Academy, as well as the upgrade of Manila's railway network, especially the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT-3).

During the signing held at the Manila Hotel, Vienna also signified its interest to sell or even donate trains for use on the MRT-3 line, which is operated by Metrostar Express.

Under the agreement, the Austrian transport, innovation and technology ministry will send experts to help establish the academy that will train future engineers and track operators.

Guiling Mamondiong, undersecretary for Rail Transport of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), and Austrian State Secretary Eduard Mainoni signed for their respective governments.

The MOA for technology transfer is a follow-up to a pact signed in June last year, in which the Viennese government and the DOTC agreed to explore the development of the Mindanao and Panay railway projects using Austrian technology.

Metrostar Express General Manager and Assistant Secretary Roberto T. Lastimoso said the next step is for a technical group to determine how to transfer Austria's railway technology to the Philippines and to plan how Vienna's trains can be refitted for use on the MRT-3 line.

Lastimoso said that Vienna's offer to sell or donate its fleet of trains would ease overcapacity on the MRT-3 line.

The rail system can only handle 350,000 passengers daily at full capacity. But over 460,000 commuters take the line each day, Lastimoso said.

PRULINK | PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week July 18, 2006	Last Week July 11, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.40870	1.41139
Managed Fund - Peso	1.53863	1.54689
Growth Fund - Peso	1.20166	1.21445
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2299	1.2304

* Note. These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

The Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II), intends to dispose one lot of accumulated junk and various scrap materials:

All parties interested to bid for the above mentioned materials are hereby invited to pre-qualify with TARELCO II.

The Junk/scrap materials are available for inspection at the Main Office located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac.

Bidders are required to submit the following requirements for pre-qualification: photo copies of business license or registration; latest audited financial statements; latest Income Tax Returns (original copies to be shown for authentication purpose).

VARIOUS SCRAP MATERIALS TO BE DISPOSED:

I.	Salvaged KWHM (Assorted Type)	1,708 units
II.	Transformers	
	A. Distribution Transformer (Assorted Ratings)	124 units
	B. Old Current Transformers	6 units
III.	Capacitor, Power, Old	9 units
IV.	Hardware and Line Materials	
	A. Guy grip, 5/6", Hard Old (3,794 kgs.)	7,904 pcs
	B. Secondary Rack, (Old w/rust) (278 kgs.)	264 pcs
	C. Socket Base, 1" Hubs. CL-100, 4 Jaws (def/old) (193.2 kgs.)	276 pcs
	D. Transformer Hanger for cross arm (retrieved fr. Old lines) (258 kgs.)	24 pcs
	E. Cut-out, V-Type, Defective (retrieved fr. Old lines)	68 pcs
	F. Cut-out, (Assorted Type) Defective, w/o Holder	76 pcs
	G. Cut-out Holder, Defective	27 pcs
	H. Lighting Arrester, Assorted Types, Defective	35 pcs
V.	Wires and Conductors	7,905 units
VI.	Tires, Worn-out, Assorted sizes	160 units
VII.	Batteries, Defective, Assorted Sizes	22 pcs

Prequalification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MR. PABLITO D. MAGCALAS, at TARELCO II Main Office Building located at, San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines. Bid documents are available beginning July 24, 2006.

Submission of Prequalification Documents	July 24-27, 2006
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference	August 02, 2006 at 1:30 PM at TARELCO II Conference Room

Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Pre-bid Conference.

Bids shall be accompanied by a required Bid Bond (Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check or Surety Bond) of at least 2.5% of the total amount to bid.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (45) 923-0460 or Fax Nos. (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) PABLITO D. MAGCALAS
PBAC Chairman

(PDI—July 21 & 23, 2006)

Gov't bucks . . .

From page B1

lift the recently implemented VAT on oil in consideration of consumers' welfare.

But fiscal authorities said the VAT on oil, while causing pain in the short term, was a measure essential to improve the government's fiscal standing and ensure a more stable economic environment over the medium term.

The implementation of the VAT Reform law, under which the VAT on oil was imposed, is credited partly for helping the government post budget surpluses in the past three consecutive months to June.

It expanded the coverage of the value-added tax in November last year and raised the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent last February. The tax measure is estimated to generate P75 billion in additional revenues this year alone.

Analysts expect the government's budget position for the full year to settle at a deficit way below the P125-billion ceiling set for the year and the P146.8-billion actual deficit last year.

But Beltran said the momentum of an improving fiscal condition would be derailed if the VAT on oil would be lifted.

He said the government and the private sector should be more serious in looking for alternative sources of oil as a means to cushion the effects of increasing world oil prices.

Beltran said the DOF would be supportive of proposals to grant tax incentives to activities involving the production and distribution of alternative fuels.

Survey says . . .

From page B1

Navarro added that low interest rates, expected to hover at around 8 percent, and higher savings rates were also fueling the optimism.

Despite the optimism, about 59 percent of Filipino business owners felt they would be profitable this year, slightly lower than last year's 62 percent. Navarro stressed that the result was in line with the sentiment of East Asia as a whole at 58 percent.

"It's hard to explain the optimism of the Filipino. If you look at the numbers, it looks like they are not that optimistic, because stress levels are high, but in spite of that we have registered our highest level of optimism from a negative three years ago, now it's 71 percent, that is high optimism," Navarro told reporters.

A major constraint on the expansion of businesses is the cost of finance or borrowing costs, according to 42 percent of respondents, as companies still felt they could not get access to funding without collateral.

Bureaucratic "red tape" or regulations were the second biggest constraint with 34 percent of respondents saying so.

A total of 63 percent of businesses tagged increased raw material prices as the biggest pressure on profit margins, followed by increased cost of fuel at 56 percent, higher than East Asia's 46-percent response.

Some 76 percent of business owners in the Philippines also reported that their stress levels have increased, compared with the past year's 53 percent. "Now more people are concerned with politics, the environment, globalization," Navarro said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	1,795,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	52	51	52	2,269,400
China Banking Corp.	850	850	845	845	690
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,200,000
Equitable PCI Bank, Inc.	74	78	74	78	198,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	36	35	35	1,304,500
Philippine National Bank	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	10,200
Phil. Savings Bank	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	3,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18	18	18	65,000
Security Bank Corp.	48	49	47.5	49	68,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	44	44	1,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citisecoline.Com Inc.	1.82	1.86	1.78	1.78	1,184,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1605	1600	1605	560
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	213	213	213	213	1,200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2010	2000	2010	1,120
Ivantage Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	2,092,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44	44	43	44	152,600
First Phil Hldgs Corp	45	45.5	44.5	44.5	267,000
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	15	15	71,400
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.5	24	24	339,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	634,000
Petron Corp.	3.95	4.1	3.95	4.05	7,122,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	270,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	4,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	21,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	20,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	32	553,300
Pancake House Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	2,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3	3.2	3	3.2	933,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66	65.5	66	52,000
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70.5	71	60,100
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.25	19	19	2,611,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	740,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.54	1.56	1.52	1.52	946,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.3	1.34	1.3	1.3	81,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	309,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	135,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0825	0.0925	0.0825	0.09	29,600,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	26,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	56,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	390	402.5	390	400	99,570
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	313,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	11.75	12	11.75	12	800
Ajo Net Holdings Inc	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	5,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	777,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.91	0.92	950,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	12,900
Benpres Holdings Corp	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	3,393,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4	4.1	4	4.05	2,442,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.9	2.75	2.9	831,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	5,000,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	50,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	223	219	223	151,320
South China Resources Inc	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	150,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,500,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	8,958,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	4,382,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	308,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.38	1.48	1.38	1.38	63,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	9,640,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.3	1.3	19,457,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	7,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	460,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	210,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	38,905,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.21	6,900,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	91,600
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,960,000
SM Development Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	31,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.9	2,513,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	600
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	258,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,165,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	900	950	900	930	45,220
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	2,699,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1860	1900	1860	1900	81,260
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	20,000
Ionics Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	107,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	165,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	100,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14	14	14	14	46,900
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.3	1.36	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.18	0.19	1,880,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	300,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1050	1050	1050	1050	30
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	386,000
Paxys Inc.	11	11	11	11	5,121,500
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	35	35	35	35	5,700
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.6	3.85	3.5	3.8	8,037,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	3.55	3.9	3.55	3.85	4,598,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	106,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	653,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	3,840,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.29	17,380,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.025	106,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.028	47,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.011	0.008	0.01	5,293,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.1	4.1	4	4.05	2,559,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.05	4.15	4	4.1	5,548,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	259,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	1,560,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	230,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	30,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.24	1.26	1.2	1.2	575,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	293,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	437,100
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.25	707,000

CURRENCIES

July 20, 2006

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.793903	1.000000	52.6730
Japan	Yen	0.006795	0.008559	0.4508
United Kingdom	Pound	1.463242	1.843100	97.0816
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102097	0.128601	6.7738
Switzerland	Franc	0.636191	0.801346	42.2093
Canada	Dollar	0.699474	0.881057	46.4079
Singapore	Dollar	0.500191	0.630040	33.1861
Australia	Dollar	0.593750	0.747887	39.3935
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.105955	2.652661	139.7236
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211690	0.266645	14.0450
Brunei	Dollar	0.498620	0.628062	33.0819
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000108	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020832	0.026240	1.3821
UAE	Dirham	0.216158	0.272272	14.3414
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.259600	66.3469
Argentina	Peso	0.257760	0.324675	17.1016
Brazil	Real	0.363209	0.457498	24.0978
Denmark	Kroner	0.134074	0.168879	8.8954
India	Rupee	0.016956	0.021358	1.1250
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214975	0.270783	14.2630
Mexico	New Peso	0.073036	0.091996	4.8457
New Zealand	Dollar	0.494274	0.622587	32.7935
South Africa	Rand	0.112165	0.141283	7.4418
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.001044	0.0550
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024155	0.030426	1.6026

Shares jump 3%

From page B1

cal interest and exchange rates and may prompt the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to raise its rates, lifting borrowing costs.

"Our house position is that the Fed will stop raising rates at 5.25 percent, and I think that's what the market is focusing on right now," said ATR Kim Eng Securities research head Edgar Bancod.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, rising 4.1 percent to P1,900, following the 2.1-percent gain made by the company's American depositary receipts Wednesday.

Other actively traded stocks included Bank of the Philippine Islands, which rose 6.1 percent to P52, Ayala Land, up 2 percent at P12.50, call center operator Paxys, which gained 2.3 percent to P11, and Megaworld, higher by 2.9 percent at P1.42.

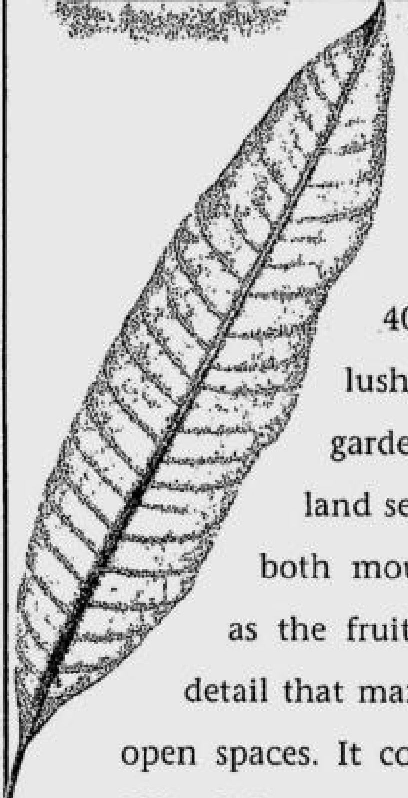
The rally came as no surprise given Wall Street's overnight advance, which boosted the Dow Jones Industrial Average 2 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index by 1.8 percent.

Bancod said the market still has a long way to go before it could completely recover the gains made earlier in the year. The main index fell to its lowest level so far this year at 2,034.49 in June, after rising to its highest level for the year at 2,602.46 in May. *AP*

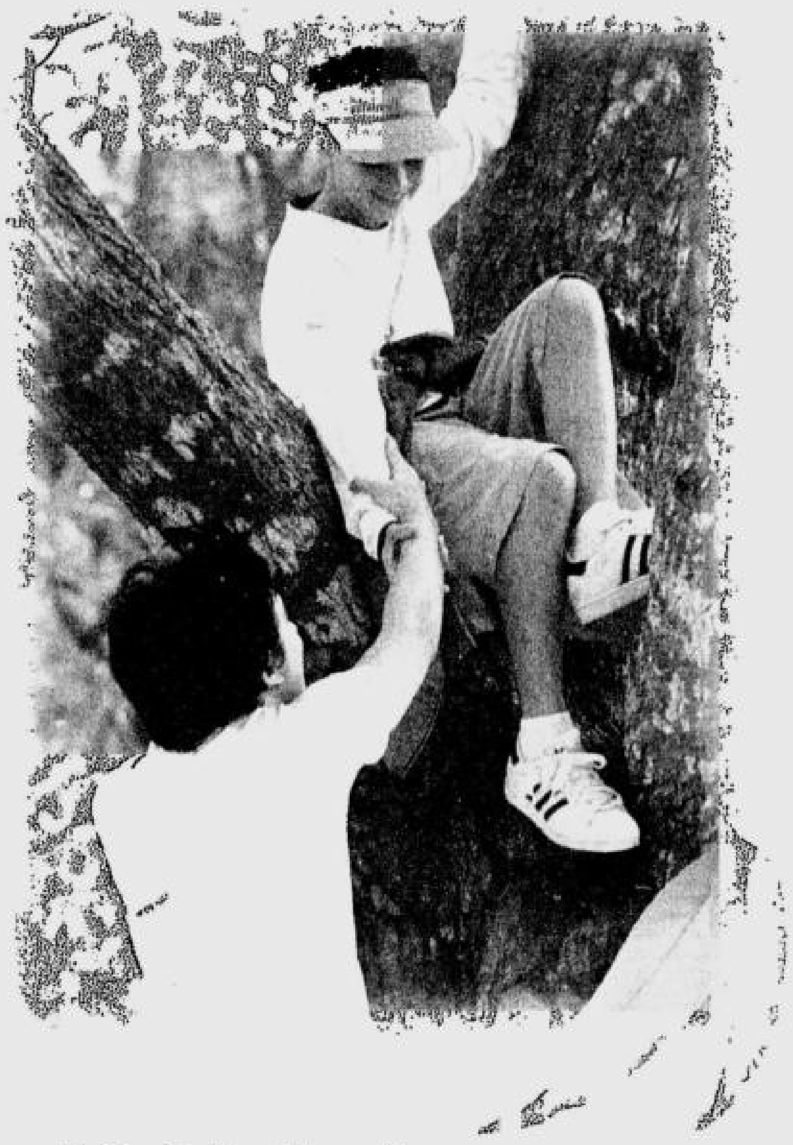
AyalaLand PREMIER

At Ayala Westgrove Heights, air freshening doesn't come in cans.

Others call it refreshing.
We call it the next
big thing in living well.



It comes instead, from over 400 hectares of rolling greens lush with orchards, groves and gardens. It comes from the way the land seems to cradle the winds from both mountain and woods. It comes as the fruit of painstaking attention to detail that maximizes and makes full use of open spaces. It comes from the fact that over 50% of the property has been devoted to parks, greenery and open spaces. And it all serves to make activities like fishing, jogging, strolling, biking, or just plain lazing around a true delight. One might even say that every breath is a pleasure at Ayala Westgrove Heights. Find out for yourself. Plan a visit today. And inhale. And exhale. And repeat.



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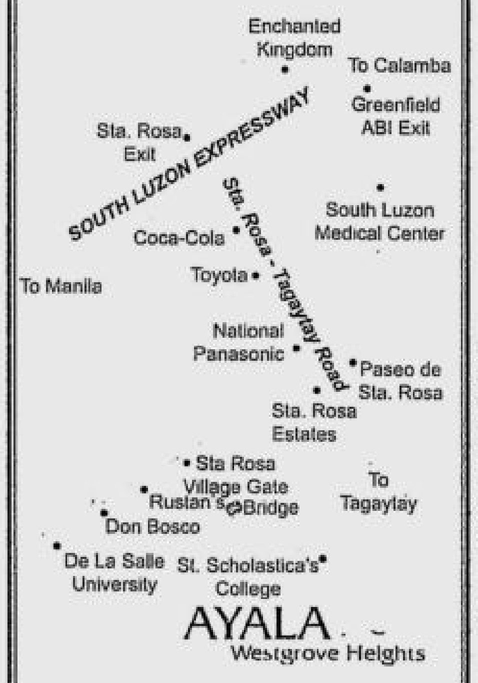
LTS HLURB Nos. R4-99-08-0092, R4-99-08-0093, R4-99-08-0090, 01844-R4-00-05, 01883-R4-00-09, 08196-R4A-03-08

The Good Life Begins With A Healthy Life

Located just minutes away from the Santa Rosa exit of the South Superhighway, Ayala Westgrove Heights was deliberately designed to cradle the fresh mountain air, to make even the littlest of breaths a pleasure in itself.

That's why over half of the property (or about 200 hectares) is devoted to parks, gardens, and recreational areas, with the other half reserved for residential development. What it adds up to is one of the least congested residential areas in the country today.
A place where you can breathe easily. Which, residents have discovered, has reduced occurences of asthma attacks in children, reawakened the desire to engage in outdoor activities. And it's not magic. All the air in Westgrove is fresh. And that's a lot more than can be said in many so-called modern residential communities today.

But in spite of being far enough from the city to escape smog and pollution and congestion, Ayala Westgrove Heights is still near enough commercial centers, drugstores, churches, markets, and even premier schools like St. Scholastica's Westgrove, DLSU Canlubang, Don Bosco and Brent International School to make living here the new standard in living well.


Enchanted Kingdom
To Calamba
Greenfield ABI Exit
Sta. Rosa Exit
SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
Sta. Rosa - Tagaytay Road
South Luzon Medical Center
Coca-Cola
Toyota
To Manila
National Panasonic
Paseo de Sta. Rosa
Sta. Rosa Estates
Sta Rosa Village Gate
Rustan's
Bridge
To Tagaytay
Don Bosco
De La Salle University
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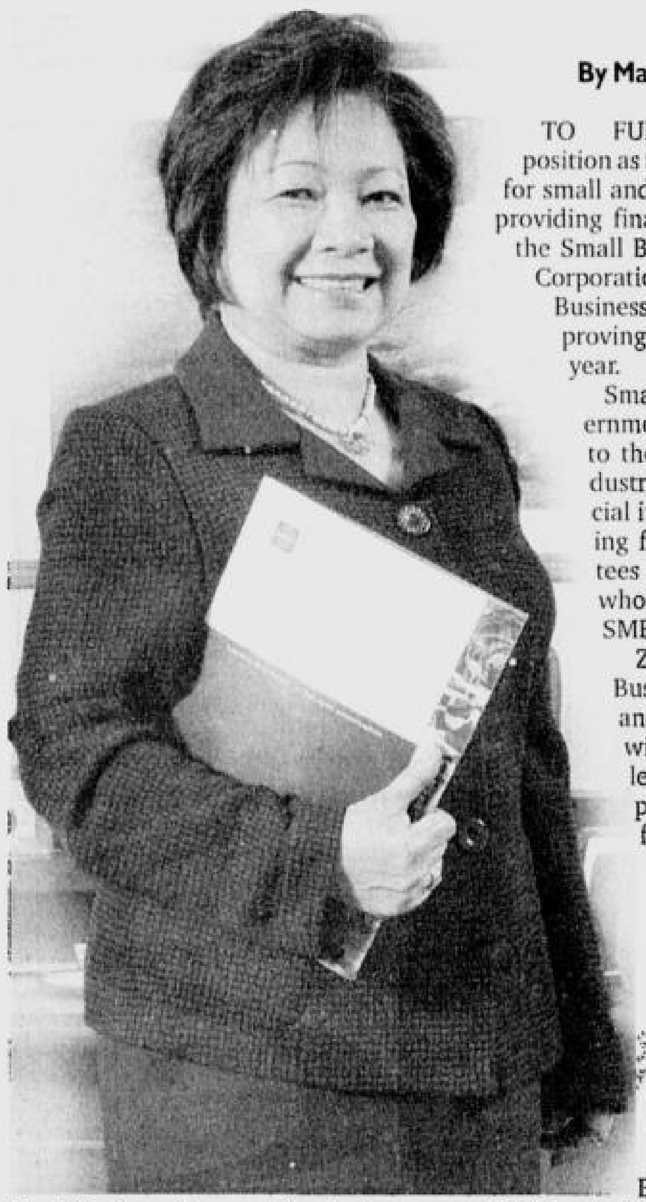
CORPORATION

Bigger and better financing for SMEs in 2006



Small Business Corporation chairperson and CEO Zorayda Amelia Alonzo

By Marlet D. Salazar

TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN ITS position as the lending development agency for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in providing financial and technical assistance, the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation, otherwise known as Small Business Corporation, is relentlessly improving its lending system since last year.

Small Business Corporation, a government financial institution attached to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), takes on specific financial interventions such as retail lending for pre-bankable SMEs, guarantees for near bankable SMEs, and wholesale facility for bankable SMEs.

Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, Small Business Corporation chairperson and CEO said, "We entered 2006 with more confidence that our lending programs have been improved and delivered the needed financing to SMEs."

The move saw the lending firm relaxing its lending rules and increasing loan ceilings which benefit SMEs especially those in the provinces. According to Alonzo, the National Capital Region still takes up about 70 percent of available loans, the Visayas and Mindanao post 15 percent each.

To expand its outreach, Small Business Corporation successfully negotiated approximately P3 billion in official development assistance from the Asian Development Bank, Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KFW), and the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

"There will be a doubling of our resources in the next five years because of these three loans we have secured," Alonzo said.

Last year, the company posted a P3.25 billion worth in financing services under its four programs: Wholesale Lending, Retail Lending, Guarantees, and Microfinance. As of June this year, Alonzo said they are just right on target and hopes to meet the P4 billion mark targeted for 2006.

Small Business Corporation bolsters its countryside presence by pushing its micro-finance program more aggressively to benefit more microentrepreneurs in the provinces in preparation of the IFAD loan. It was also last year the Corporation redesigned its microfinance program to make it more aligned and responsive to the realities of the different types of microfinance providers.

Alonzo noted that since the merger of Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation and the Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises in 2001, they have doubled their financial assistance to MSMEs. In 2005, as they needed to reflect and redesign the retail lending program, the Corporation had to slow down its financial assistance to SMEs.

"The slow down was necessary for our credit programs' sustainability," Alonzo explained.

The decision to slow down and redesign already yielded positive results as Small Business Corporation was able to attract more partner banks under the micro finance program given the differentiated product features allowed by the new guidelines.

Small Business Corporation approved the granting of credit lines to three more rural banks and to one thrift bank immediately after the implementation of the new guidelines.

The lending firm's partners under the micro-finance program are mostly cooperatives and non-government organizations.

Meanwhile, wholesale lending posted a P2.5 billion in loan approvals last year while its guarantees program originated P229 million in accounts. The two programs are coursed through accredited conduit banks, cooperatives, and NGOs.

As of this year, Small Business Corporation has partnered with a total of 36 financial institutions.

Under its retail lending program, more than P500 million in loans have been extended by Small Business Corporation. The assistance benefited entrepreneurs who the corporation found to have the strongest potential for success.

"We don't discriminate which industry or entrepreneurs to give loans to," said Alonzo who is also the Trade and Industry Undersecretary for SME Development.

"We have enabled enterprises that have no access to loan from financial institutions because they have no track record of business proficiency or no collateral, to avail (themselves) of the loan," Alonzo added.

Alonzo further said, "We have been able to develop a credit system wherein we base it not exclusively on experience and collateral but on the potential of their business."

Alonzo also noted that with the number of loans granted in the past years, Small Business Corporation already has a good batting average of gauging whether an enterprise is to succeed or not long enough to repay our loan.

Small Business Corporation reported a much lower default rate of borrowers than the default rate of commercial banks.

"We're proud of that considering that our client base is of a higher risk in nature than those of the banks," she said.

With this, Small Business Corporation further enhanced its credit evaluation system by creating an independent "Credit Policy Unit" which makes sure credit policies are now consistent and properly implemented, and it now acts as the Secretariat to the Credit Committee.

"We are in the process of reorganizing to prepare for the inflow of additional funds from the ODA loans that have been granted to us," Alonzo said. "We are optimistic with new funds coming in and our reorganized structure in place, our outreach will expand this year and we will be able to deliver more financing to SMEs", Alonzo concluded.

Highlights

2001

- DTI Secretary Mar Roxas endorsed the move to merge SBGFC and GFSME.
- On November 15, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through Executive Order 28 merged SBGFC and GFSME and became known as the Small Business Corporation. Ms Zorayda Amelia Alonzo became its Chair and CEO and Mr. Benel P. Lagua as President and COO.
- The ban on the issuance of guarantees on private sector loans was lifted on August 15,2001.

2002

- Notable new programs were launched-SME GUIDE and SME-FRIEND facilities.
- The P27 8 Million approved in retail lending also exceeded the highest previous approval level of P180 million in 1999.
- Small Business Corporation led in the drafting of the SME Development Plan approved by President Gloria Macapagal- Arroyo.

2003

- Loan approvals reached the P2 billion mark.
- Small Business Corporation participated in surpassing the P20 billion SULONG target.
- The 16th Asian Credit Supplementation Institution Confederation Conference, a gathering of credit guarantee institutions in the Asian region, was conducted.

2004

- Loan and credit guarantee approvals achieved a 110-percent accomplishment against target of P3.0 billion. A total of P3.3 billion has been lent to the micro, small and medium enterprises under various programs.
- External fundings for its growing SME portfolio were sought. Small Business Corporation utilized P800.0 million from the P1 billion loan package from DBP's ISSEP Fund. Negotiations were done for SME funds from Land Bank, ADB, KFW and IFAD.
- A net income of P62.442 million for the year 2004 was posted. It was more than 10-percent higher than the P56.432 million net income it recorded in the same period the previous year.
- The Equity Venture Program and the SME- Financing Assistance for Students of Entrepreneurship Courses (SME-FASTEC) were established.

2005

- Successful negotiation of Official Development Assistance ODA) from the Asian Development Bank or ADB (US$25 million), KFW (US$14.04 million) and United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development or IFAD (US$15 million).
- Implementation of technical assistance project on credit scoring, financial management, product development, business development services and accreditation system.
- Re-alignment of programs and functions in the Financing and Guarantees Sector, which was renamed Financing Delivery Sector. The Loans and Guarantees Groups were renamed Development Financing Group and Institutional Markets Financing Group, respectively.
- Creation of a credit policy unit and an audit committee of the Small Business Corporation Board of Directors.
- Redesigned of microfinance programs which resulted in an increase of 186 percent in the originations, from P43 million in 2004 to P123 million in 2005.
- Opening of desk offices in Isabela, Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo provinces.

Small and Medium
Enterprise
Week

TRADE and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila (second from right) with Small Business Corporation chairperson and CEO Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo (extreme left) award Bank of Commerce, represented by its EVP for Credit Sector, Ricardo R. Dizon and Manager, Connie Ringor, as one of the Corporation's outstanding bank partners during last year's awarding ceremony. Witnessing the awarding is Benel P. Lagua (extreme right), Small Business Corporation President & COO.

TOP BANK PARTNERS FOR 2006

Gawad SMEs-Year 3
Wholesale Lending and Guarantees Programs
PLANTERS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Most Distinguished Partner
Wholesale Lending Program for SMEs
ASIATRUST DEVELOPMENT BANK

Distinguished Partner
Wholesale Lending Program for SMEs
FIRST CONSOLIDATED BANK

Distinguished Partner
Wholesale Lending Program for SMEs
EQUITABLE PCIBANK

Distinguished Partner
Wholesale Lending Program for SMEs
ANCHOR SAVINGS BANK

Most Distinguished Partner
Guarantees Program
EXPORT AND INDUSTRY BANK

Most Distinguished Partner
Guarantees Program
BANK OF COMMERCE

SUCCESS STORY: *IRIS GARDEN* *Bicol*

Iris
Garden

ZENDA, AN ARDENT PLANT-lover, started tending plants as a hobby when she and her husband retired and moved to Legazpi City. This hobby turned into a serious business after she joined the Garden Show during the Ibalong Festival. Having sold all her plants on the very first day, she ordered orchids from Davao and sold them at the Garden Show. By the end of the month-long show, her earnings had reached P100,000.

Encouraged, Zenda decided to sell flowers for All Saints' Day. She went to Cebu to buy the flowers, and returned home to sell them along the road in Old Albay District. From this three-day venture, she earned P50,000 net sales.

She searched for a bigger garden in Malabog, Daraga, Albay, bought different ornamental plants and began landscaping her garden, which she named after her daughter, Iris.

Zenda became an officer of the Garden Club and joined practically every Garden Show, reaching as far as Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur. Both Zenda and her husband, Bing, joined the group in its observation tours. They had also sallied forth into flower arrangement, landscaping and other related activities. Landscaping, for which they charge from P5,000 to P1 million, comprises 55 percent of their business. The rest goes to trading. Since garden accessories are part of landscaping, they also ventured into production of garden accessories, inspired by designs Zenda got from her books.

She availed of a P750,000 loan from Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation or Small Business Corporation and used it to develop an additional 1,300 square meters of land for green houses, three water pumps, a computer and internet connection, and a new line of ornamental and flowering plants. She now uses the Internet to order plants and deal with clients and suppliers.

Iris Garden is now worth P9 million, from P6 milllion in 2003. The Garden is abloom with different varieties of euphorbia, bromeliads, palms, bonsais and other ornamental plants. Last year Zenda opened Iris Garden Boutique at Pacific Mall in Legazpi City where she sells country home decors. She also has a stall at the Pacific Mall Atrium where she displays her plants for sale or for taking orders. Presently she employs around 15 regular employees, and sometimes hires additional workers when work is aplenty.

"I'm glad I was able to avail of this loan," she said. "This time I really mean it when I say I can't ask for more. The Lord has rewarded Bing and me well and we are very thankful for that."

German donor inks pact with DTI to help SMEs

GTZ to expand SME program outside Ormoc and Bacolod

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GERMAN AID AGENCY SIGNED last Wednesday a pact with the Department of Trade and Industry on the replication of its support program for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the Visayas.

Philippine-based officials of the German Technical Cooperation or GTZ said the memorandum of agreement with DTI covered the implementation of phase 2 of the SME Development for Sustainable Employment Program.

GTZ program officer Armando D. Datuin said the second stage meant that what had been achieved in the SMEDSEP pilot projects, which covered the cities of Ormoc and Bacolod, would be tried out in other areas.

"The program's goal is to enable public and private institutions to create favorable business conditions in order to develop entrepreneurial potential and encourage competition in the Visayas," Datuin said

One of the SMEDSEP's major thrusts is to find ways to make it easier for entrepreneurs to start a business, particularly in the registration with the local government.

GTZ program manager Martina Vahlhaus said that through the program, the processing of new business applications in Ormoc had been cut by half.

SMEDSEP was launched in September 2003 and is expected to be completed in August of 2011.

Also on Wednesday, the Canadian International Development Agency inked with DTI a separate MOA on the pilot phase of harmonizing national and local SME development programs under the DTI's SME Development Plan 2004-2010.

The MOA was forged by CIDA's Private Enterprise Accelerated Linkages project or Pearl 2 and DTI's Bureau of SME Development.

The pact involves the conduct of harmonization workshops in 79 provinces with the help of the Provincial SMED Council through the DTI regional offices.

The signing of the MOAs coincided with the announcement of 11 international development agencies that they were taking steps to attune their separate programs and projects in the country amid a global move to harmonize a wide array of aid efforts for SMEs.

Aside from GTZ and CIDA, the agencies include Asian Development Bank, The Asia Foundation, United States Agency for International Development, Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, KfW group, International Finance Corp. and International Labor Organization.

GTZ's Vahlhaus said the initiative came in the wake of a consensus among representatives of at least 100 donor agencies and developing countries, who met in France in March 2005.

Vahlhaus said the convention came up with the so-named Paris Declaration, which enjoined those involved to make efforts to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation to achieve poverty reduction measures under the Millennium Development Goals.

"The Paris Declaration is based on the very simple idea that we can accomplish much more if we work together than if we work separately," she explained.

Overnight billionaire

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE SUPREME COURT HAS made a litigant an overnight billionaire, and Justice Antonio Carpio is wincing from his colleagues' decision.

The case involves a 34-hectare piece of property right behind Ayala Heights in Quezon City, whose title, in the name of the long-time settlers, the Manotoks, was effectively invalidated in favor of a new claimant.

The new claimant, a certain Teresita Barque-Hernandez, said to be a daughter of the late Homer L. Barque, surfaced in 1996, claiming that their copy of the land title had been destroyed in the City Hall fire of 1988.

The long and the short of it is that, last December, the Supreme Court's First Division, then chaired by outgoing Chief Justice Hilario Davide, not only upheld the reconstitution of the Barque title, but also cancelled the Manotok title.

The First Division also modified the Land Registration Authority decision that it is up to the Regional Trial Court, as the LRA had wanted, to determine the actual ownership of a disputed property, as had been spelled out in PD 1529, the Property Registration Decree.

Ironically, the high court's decision also effectively set aside the factual basis of a 1984 decision by the same First Division, then chaired by Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, affecting the same 34-hectare property.

The 1984 case, involving a spurned tenancy claim, referred to the findings of the Court of Agrarian Relations that the Balara property was donated by Severino Manotok in 1946 to his eight children and two grandchildren.

The 1984 decision even noted that the Manotok heirs in 1950 used the property as their capital contribution to form the still existing Manotok Realty Inc.

The Manotok heirs include Rosita Go, the wife of banker Edward Go, and the family of retired general Mamerto Bocanegra, who lives in the sprawling compound.

Nothing is known about Barque-Hernandez, except that she uses a No. 9 Pluto St., Greenland Village, Rosario, Pasig City, address, and that her counsel is also Erap's counsel, former Fiscal Jose Flaminiano.

According to court records, the late Barque not only had a duplicate TCT but also real estate tax receipts and tax declarations. Five years of accumulated real estate taxes were allegedly paid in one lump sum, shortly before filing the 1996 claim.

It is not immediately clear why, since 1946, when the Manotok patriarch transferred the Balara land title to his heirs, Barque or his representative(s) never attempted to take legal or physical possession of any portion of the 34-hectare rolling land, and did it only in 1996.

In his dissenting opinion, which, incidentally, is longer than the opinion of the *ponente* Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Carpio noted not only the flip-flopping findings of the Land Registration Authority but also the Court of Appeals, having reversed itself in invalidating the Manotok title.

Carpio's position is that, although the LRA may reconstitute the land title, ownership of the disputed property must still be determined in a full-blown trial before the Regional Trial Court, and not the appellate court and now the Supreme Court assuming "equity distribution" over the case, "when the law," Carpio added, "has not granted such jurisdiction."

But the First Division is steadfast in its ruling, saying it would be "needlessly circuitous" to remand the case to the RTC, after the LRA and two Court of Appeals divisions had already ruled the Manotok title as invalid.

"Basic is the rule that factual findings of agencies exercising quasi-judicial functions are accorded not only respect but even finality, aside from the consideration that this court is essentially not a trier of facts," said the First Division, as it again denied a renewed appeal from the Manotoks to bring the case for review by the entire Supreme Court.

"Without such authority, the LRA would be a mere robotic agency clothed only with mechanical powers." To stop their ejectment, the Manotoks have filed an adverse claim with the LRA and Register of Deeds, although it is not clear if that can stop the writ of possession that Barque-Hernandez had already reportedly obtained.

Almost one and a half times the size of the UST España campus, the contested property, at a conservative estimate of P5,000 a square meter, is easily worth P1.7 billion. Except for the dozen houses built by the Manotok heirs, the property remains a "rolling, forrestal land," hardly changed since 1912, when the Manotok patriarch was said to have first laid claim on the land.

Money-go-round

- THE MANUEL L. Quezon University is up for sale, and the Phinma Group is said to be one of the parties interested in acquiring the Quiapo-based school.
- THE PUBLICLY listed but dormant mining company, Omico, is set to sign a joint-venture agreement with a Canadian firm to reopen a copper mine in Benguet.

Heard through the grapevine

SEPTUAGENARIAN businessman Pedro Aguirre on Monday filed a habeas corpus petition for his ailing wife, Lourdes, whom he had not seen for more than a year, after one of their daughters took custody of Lourdes and forbade Aguirre from visiting both of them.

Set on Wednesday, the hearing did not happen as Mrs. Aguirre unfortunately passed away the day before.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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E-mail: aphc1996@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

To All Stockholders:

Please be advised that the Annual meeting of the Stockholders of ANGLO PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS CORPORATION will be held on 28 July 2006, 3:00 p.m., at the Makati AB Room, Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City 1200, Philippines. The Agenda for the Meeting shall be as follows.

1. Call to order
2. Proof of notice and certification of Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
4. Management Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2005
5. Approval of Company's Annual Report
6. Ratification of Previous Corporate Acts
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

For purposes of the meeting, stockholders of record as of 30 May 2006 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the said meeting. If you will not be able to attend the meeting but would like to be represented thereat, you may submit your proxy form, duly signed and accomplished, to the Corporate Secretary at the 6th Floor, Quad Alpha Centrum, 125 Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City, no later than July 21, 2006. Corporate stockholders should also provide a notarized secretary's certificate attesting to the appointment of the corporation's representative and/or proxy for the meeting as well as the execution and delivery of the proxy form.

For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present some form of identification, such as a driver's license, voter's ID, TIN card, SSS card or passport. Registration for the said Meeting starts at 2:00 p.m. and the registration booths will be closed at 3:00 pm.

Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines, 05 July 2006

(SGD.) ROBERTO V. SAN JOSE
Corporate Secretary

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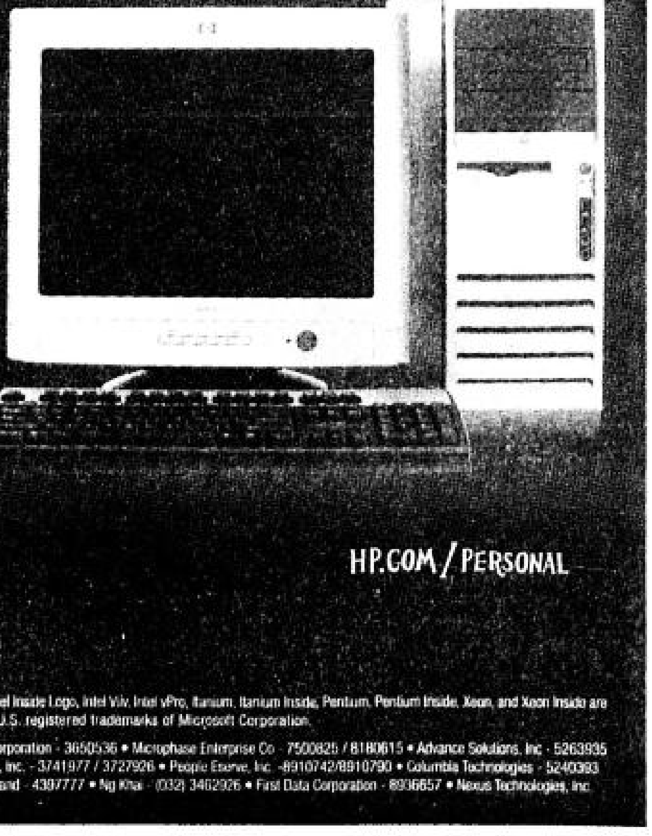

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Tapping the silver market

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

MUCH OF THE products and services including marketing and advertising campaigns in the recent decades have been aimed at young households and consumers. Understandably, the elderly in the previous generation were stereotyped as low net-worth individuals dependent on their children's income.

Today, this has become misguided belief. There is a huge segment of the senior market that has the financial means to remain independent in their later years. Often, these seniors include those with higher education, with independent sources of income, have access to the Internet and read print media.

The silver citizens represent a huge untapped but financially secure market segment. In fact, the pocket influence of the elderly market has become prevalently recognized in many country markets thus, giving rise to the senior welfare industry.

This elderly segment have been referred in various terms and publications as the mature, gray and silver citizen market.

Big change

A lot of the changes about the elderly market have to do with their lifestyle. With medical advancement, availability of health supplements, a new attitude toward a healthy lifestyle and wise use of their time; many seniors are able to keep a productive work and family life even after 60 years old. Others in fact engage in second careers or active learning either pursuing a second or third degree or enrolling in enrichment courses. Some prefer to travel to satisfy their intellectual pursuit.

Since the mid-1980s when this segment was first recognized, age cut-offs for the seniors have varied among publications. Most readings acknowledge though, that the youngest silver is aged 55 years old. Based on a study of the senior citizens lifestyle published in the Journal of Consumer Marketing in 2003, researchers Sung-Hyuh, Hong-Bumm and Woo Goon Kim define the elderly market "as people of 55 years of age and older who are consumers of products and services for seniors."

Increasing demographics

True, this market's disposable income and higher discretionary spending are whetting the appetites of marketers but the increasing demographic numbers behind this segment are becoming an even more appealing reason to target them.

The population growth rates of senior citizens are evident in many regions in the United States and Asia.

In 2000, it was estimated that there were 35 million Americans aged 65 or above, estimated at 13 percent of the population. This is projected to rise to 50 million in 2010 and 70 million in 2030 based on a report made by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging related statistics held in 2000.

In a separate data gathered by the Asian Demographics and published in Mastercard's "Holding up Half of the Sky," a book authored Dr. Yuwa Hedrick-Wong, the gray market is said to spread to Asia.

Based on Wong's assessment, the elderly will be the fastest growing household segment across Asia, with an average growth rate of 5.5 percent across 12 countries including Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

With more discretionary income than at any other lifestage, the elderly market remains virtually untapped with undervalued consumption.

In the US, seniors control 70 percent of the net worth of US households at over $7 trillion. The median net worth of households headed by the 55- to 64-year-olds peaked at $110,800, those headed by 75 and over at $95,000 while households headed by those below 55 is a low $56,400.

Further, most research on the senior market reveal that the 55-65+ market save twice as much as the 25-44; have double the discretionary spending of the younger market; and if motivated to buy, purchase more investment properties, white goods (appliances and furniture) that come with new real estate investments, new cars; travel more often and literally buy more of the staples that come with and signal a better quality of life for them.

In Asia, Wong reveals that the elderly women, who outnumber and outlive men in Asia, have substantial discretionary spending on food and beverage including dining; personal care including cosmetics, beauty salon and related treatments; recreation and entertainment including travel, playing golf and going to concerts; household purchases including home decors and white lines; healthcare and transport and communications. In most markets that include Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, China, Thailand and the Philippines, the elderly women have more discretionary spending power than younger women.

Talking to seniors

Most marketers have yet to learn to talk to the seniors, today recognized as a viable but untapped economic segment. However, a number of elderly research reveal some vital insights that can be used in communicating to the senior citizen market:

1. Seniors do not think about their age in general. Unless extremely tired or depressed, older people do not think of themselves as old. Advertising that talks to the silver citizen's active lifestyle rather than to or about his age are preferred.

Sony has poured more than $25 million in advertising that attempts to make Sony's camcorders, digital cameras and other high-end gadgets appealing to the seniors. One ad showed a grandmother in an underwater cage happily taking moving images of sharks in her camcorder. So far, camcorder sales have been on a high digit double growth.

In contrast, Heinz introduced pureed senior food borne out of observing silvers with chewing problems buying Gerber baby food. The product failed miserably as the elderly shied away from the product perceived to symbolize old age weakness and helplessness.

2. Capitalizing on the elderly social connectedness is often more appealing. This includes relationships between peers and among grandchildren. A grandparent role-play must show the elderly as a companion and not a dependent.

One of the more successful advertising that has won Clio advertising recognition is Australia's red meat advocacy campaign that showed a group of dynamic rockers on stage who interestingly happen to be the same group of elderly backstage.

3. A 1994 Moschino report reveals that the senior market takes offense on advertisements that improperly stereotype older people. The same study reveals that about 30 percent of all people over age 55 say that "they avoid buying products that negatively stereotype older people."

4. It is not always true that older people are set in their ways. This segment can be motivated to buy new products, services and even technologies.

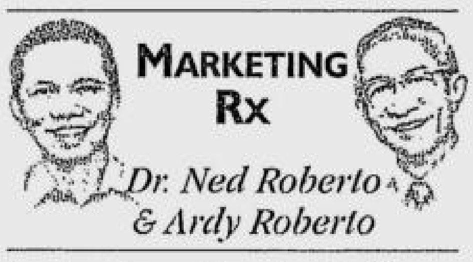
Older people will embrace something new if they perceive a distinct value or benefit behind the offer e.g. Internet usage will continue to rise as the elderly recognize the value of social connectedness specially with their grandchildren at all times.

5. A study by Bradley and Longino Jr. on "How older people think about images of aging in advertising and the media" reveals that consistent with the learning that older people think of themselves to be younger than they are, marketers should relatively use younger models, like 10 years younger than the elderly target market for use in commercials.

Truly, the elderly market can be an economic haven if properly tapped. The key is to talk to them in the right way and manner and understand their lifestyle.

(The author is a professor of Marketing and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business and is chief brand strategist of Marketing Knowledge Series Training and Consultancy with email at kdeasis@skyinet.net or www.karendeasis.com.)

'What sales promos form the repeat purchase habit?'



MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: We have two questions. First, what sales promo efforts have proven to be effective triggers to consumer repeat purchases? Second, what exactly makes them effective as repeat purchase drivers?

A: Here's our straight answer to your first question although we'd like to qualify immediately after. Our research and experience suggest that "continuity and loyalty programs" (like Pizza Hut's Palm Card promos) and "pack-in" or "in-pack" promo, premium and coupon are good repeat purchase drivers.

Continuity programs have gained this reputation because of their promo objectives that are focused on repeat usage and patronage (rather than because of their actual delivery on the sustained repeat purchase objective.)

We are quick to make this qualification because Robert Blattberg (the Kellogg School professor who has specialized in studying sales promos) and his research shows that practically any one specific promo activity can perform or can be made to perform most, if not all of the 16 target responses of sales promotion. (See our past two columns dated June 30 and July 6. These are archived in www.Inq7.net or use search engines like Google.com, keyword: MarketingRx.)

Price-off promos

Even the much-discredited discount or price-off can drive repeat purchase. If you consider the second purchase as already repeat purchase, then that's easy for discount to trigger.

Of course, most experienced marketers look at the second purchase as not a true repeat purchase but as a mere "retrial" purchase. Similarly with the third purchase; that's a "re-retrial" purchase.

We're told that on the second purchase, the consumer is just curious if what she bought in the first trial purchase will stay the same in quality in that second purchase. If it does, then in the third (still promo induced) purchase, the consumer wants a final check and validation. It is only on the fourth purchase (i.e., third "repeat" purchase) that the consumer becomes persuaded that the product is worth her "continuity" or "loyalty" attachment.

This means then that even for the true repeat purchase (that is, the fourth purchase or third repeat purchase), sales promotion can be effective. For example, when embedded in a continuity program, again even our highly criticized discount or price-off can be an effective repeat purchase driver.

Here, it is effectively saying to a prospective third repeat buying consumer something like this: "Our database tells us that you've just completed your third purchase of our brand. For your next and fourth purchase, we'd like to reward you with a special discount!"

So it depends on how you are positioning and how in turn your consumers are positioning your chosen promo activator.

This insight brings us to your second question: "What exactly makes a sales promo effective as a repeat purchase driver? How does sales promo work in driving repeat purchase?"

Positioning

Marketers now believe that what makes your sales promo effective in driving consumer repeat purchase, depends more on how consumers position your sales promo than on how you (as marketer) position it.

In our example of the discount embedded in a continuity program, the marketer positioned the discount offer as a reward. If the target consumers accept the discount as a worthwhile reward, and therefore converge with your positioning of it, then we will witness a successful and effective repeat purchase inducing promo.

Consumers who have participated in repeat-purchase inducing promos spoke to us during survey interviews about their positive as well as negative positioning responses. Here's a quick summary of these possible conflicting responses.

1. The consumers' positioning of the sales promo as a reward.

When your consumers see your offered discount for a repeat purchase as a reward that's high enough and worthwhile for giving your product a repeat buying, then at that point the discount was effective. Notice that we said "at that point."

Positive. We asked these consumers about their next repeat purchase and their reason for repeating. One group said something like this: "If it's still that good, then I'll buy it again." That's truly positive. Such consumers have learned from their usage experience with the promoted product and are on their way to a repeat buying habit.

Negative. However, another group said this: "If it offers another promo, then I'll buy again." Obviously, consumers in this group intend to buy again more because of the promo than because of the product or the experience with it. That's obviously negative.

What you want to happen is that the first group would be significantly greater than the second group.

So how will you know? In your research, do you ask consumers if their repeat purchase is because of their satisfying experience with the product they tried or because of another promo? If you ask this, you'll know. If not, then obviously you won't know. You won't get the answer if you don't ask the question. You also won't get a correct answer if you don't ask the correct question. So make sure you ask a researcher who knows the correct research.

2. The consumers' perception of sales promo as brand equity damaging.

Our research on consumer reactions to a buy-one-take-one deal, for example, always gets us such skeptical verbatims as these:

"Why do they want to quickly get rid of this batch? It must be near expiration date?"

"If it's good quality, I'm quite certain they can't afford to put it on a buy-one-take-one offer. So if it's on a buy-one-take-one deal, it must be low quality."

So whatever repeat purchase takes place in this case is because of the promo and not because of the product. Once the promo is gone, so will the repeat purchase. Such repeat purchase is therefore not sustainable.

How will you know if this perception is true with your promoted brand? In your sales promo effectiveness research, ask the question on this likely consumer perception and response.

3. The consumers' positioning of the product on promo as low versus high involvement.

Our research is beginning to show us that when prompted by a sales promo, consumers are more ready to repeat their purchase of a product that is low involvement. One such product that has been low involvement for a good number of years to most Filipino consumers is detergent. The habit of buying the same detergent brand over and over again often comes from its continuing consumer promotion.

In a low involvement product like a detergent, the consumer does not have the time nor does she want to exert the effort to think through the repeat buying decision. Forming a habit is her way of coping with the brand choice question in a repeat purchase occasion. Sales promo takes this consumer through those steps toward forming the repeat brand purchase habit.

In contrast, in a high involvement product like a car or a mobile phone, there are consumers who process the trial or the repeat purchase carefully. That the brand of car bought is on promo does not have the kind of influence that it has on the purchase of a detergent. The repeat purchase decision depends more on the experiencing of the product (as in a car test drive) than on the rebate offer or free accessory promo. Of course, there are those who will say after the test drive: "No wonder they were offering a large rebate! It's a lousy drive." So the impact on repeat purchase can go in either positive or negative direction.

The practical question for you here is this: "Do you know if your product is low or high involvement?" To know, be sure to include this question in your sales promo effectiveness research.

Overall then, where do these three considerations bring us in giving a closure to our answer to your second question? What's the Marketing Rx?

Here it is. For your sales promos that are aimed at getting a repeat purchase response from your customers, get to the bottom line or "net" output. Here's how to find out what makes them effective as repeat purchase drivers.

1. Find out the reason for the repeat purchase. Is it because of the satisfying experience with the product the consumers tried or because of another promo? If it's because of the product, then that's a plus in favor of a sustained repeat purchase. If it's because of another promo, then that's a minus and you probably won't sustain your product's repeat purchase.

2. Find out if consumers will perceive and associate your sales promo as "cheapening" the brand and its product quality. If they do, then that's a minus and your product won't gain sustained repeat purchase. If they do not, then that's a plus toward a sustained repeat purchase.

3. Find out if consumers consider your product as low involvement or high involvement. If low involvement, then that's a plus because each repeat-purchase-inducing promo leads the consumers toward forming a repeat purchase habit for the brand. If high involvement and consumers base their repeat purchase decision on product experience, then this is a plus in favor of a sustained repeat purchase. But if the high involvement is accompanied by a negative attitude toward the sales promo, then that's a minus for sustaining the repeat purchase.

Based on the preceding, we can now have "closure" to our answer to your second question.

If you get a "net" plus from the preceding three considerations, your Period 4 sales pattern will most likely attain your higher than baseline sales pattern.

If, a "net" minus, the opposite likelihood applies.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

FILSCAP

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A. THEME PARKS:
- Enchanted Kingdom
- Star City

B. FOOD CHAINS/COFFEE SHOPS
- Bread Talk (All Branches
- Brother's Burger (All Branches)
- Chowking (All Branches)
- Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (All Branches)
- Delifrance Coffee Shop (All Branches)
- Figaro Coffee Company (All Branches)
- Go Nuts Donuts (All Branches)
- Golden Arches Dev. (McDonalds) (All Branches)
- Goldilocks (All Branches)
- Greenwich Food Corporation (All Branches)
- Jollibee Foods Corporation (All Branches)
- Kenny Rogers Roasters, Inc. (All Branches)
- Pancake (All Branches)
- Perf Restaurant, Inc. (Burger King) (All Branches)
- Pizza Hut (Philippine Pizza, Inc.) (All Branches)
- Popeye's Chicken (All Branches)
- Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Inc. (All Branches)
- Seattle's Best Coffee (All Branches)
- Shakey's (Int'l Family Food Service) (All Branches)
- Tokyo - Tokyo (All Branches)
- Yellow Cab (All Branches)

C. HOTELS
- Cebu Marriott Hotel
- Century Park Sheraton
- Coco Beach Resort
- Heritage Hotel
- Holiday Inn Resort (Clark)
- Hotel Intercontinental Manila
- Hotel Nikko Manila Garden
- Hyatt Regency Manila
- Hyatt Casino Manila
- Mandarin Oriental Manila
- Manila Diamond Hotel
- Manila Pavillion
- New World Hotel
- Pan Pacific Hotel
- Richmonde Hotel
- Shangri-La Edsa Plaza
- Shangri-La Hotel Manila
- Shangri-La Mactan (Cebu City)
- Status Married Couples Inn (Anito Hotel)
- The Peninsula Manila
- Westin Philippine Plaza

D. MUSIC LOUNGES/KTV
- 22nd Street Music Café (Cainta)
- Bagaberde Grill & Restaurant (Pasig & Roxas Blvd)
- Coco Cobana Bar (Malate)
- Club Asia, Inc. (Makati)
- Club Mwah (Boni, Mandaluyong)
- Café Havana (Malate)
- Café Havana (Greenbelt)
- Conspiracy (Visayas Avenue)
- Cowboy Grill (All Branches)
- Decades Bar (Quezon City)
- Decades Bar (Metro Walk, Pasig City)
- Dish (Quezon City)
- El Pescador (Sea Foods Restaurant)
- Encore! Encore! (West)
- Food Rich (Quezon City)
- Gorgeous Grill (Makati)
- Hard Rock Café (Makati)
- In The Mood Dance Bar (Malate)
- iO Family KTV (Makati City)
- iO Family KTV (Quezon City)
- Infinite Club (Makati)
- Karaoke King (All Branches)
- Klownz Bar (All Branches)
- Laffline (Belemdwell) Timog
- Matrix Entertainment, Inc. (Red Box) Makati
- Merk's Bistro and Bar (Makati)
- Metro Bar and Restaurant (Quezon City)
- Mugen Bar (Metro Walk)
- Music Match Family KTV (Tomas Morato)
- Music Plaza 21, Inc. KTV (Makati City)
- Music Plaza 21, Inc. KTV (Quezon City)
- Music Plaza 21, Inc. KTV (Roxas Blvd)
- Padis Point, Inc. (Cubao & Edsa)
- Padis Point, Inc. (Antipolo, Morato, Katipunan)
- Phi Resto Bar (Metro Walk)
- Popstar Music Studio (All Branches)
- Punchline (Quezon City)
- Ratsky's (T. Morato, Malate & Cebu)
- R&B Disco (Metro Walk)
- Savannah Moon (Libis)
- Soundstage (Cainta)
- Starway KTV (Tomas Morato)
- Suburbia (Malate)
- Tavern on the Square (Makati)
- Tex Mex, Inc. (Tia Maria) All Branches
- The Library (Manila)
- The 70's Bistro (Quezon City)
- Watering Hole (Edsa)
- Worlds of Fun Amusement
- World Music Room - Family KTV (Greenhills)
- Virgin Café, Inc. (Quezon City)
- Zirkoh (Quezon City)
- Zirkoh (Quezon City & Greenhills)

E. RESTAURANTS
- Annabel's Fine Dining (T. Morato)
- Ang Hang Restaurant
- Aristocrat (All Branches)
- Bianca's Vinotek (Makati)
- Bistro 1771, Inc. (Malate Manila)
- Bistro 1771, Inc. (Makati)
- Bistro Americano (TGI-Friday's - All Branches)
- Bistro Bar Restaurant (Rockwell)
- Bite Restaurant (Marikina)
- Brazillian Restaurant (All Branches)
- Bubba Gump (Makati City)
- Bubble Gang Toppings (Katipunan)
- Burgoo Restaurant (Gateway Araneta)
- Burgoo Restaurant (Makati)
- Burgoo Restaurant (Power Plant)
- Burgoo Restaurant (Promenade Greenhills)
- Burgoo Restaurant (Quezon City)
- Cafe Adriatico 1900 Malate
- Cafe Adriatico Remedios
- Café Lupe (Makati & Tagaytay)
- Carpacio Ristorante (Makati)
- Chateau 1771 (Malate)
- China Bistro (Libis)
- Chinese Monk (Makati City)
- CIBO, INC. (All Branches)
- DAD'S (All branches)
- Daungan Restaurant (Quezon City)
- Dencio's Restaurant (All Branches)
- Don Henrico's Restaurant (All Branches)
- Embassy Super Club (Makati City)
- Gaudi Bar & Restaurant (Megamall)
- Gerry's Grill (All Branches)
- Grams Dinner & Réstaurant (Rockwell)
- Italliani's Restaurant (Libis)
- Italliani's Restaurant (Gateway)
- Italliani's Restaurant (Greenhills)
- Jade Vine Restaurant (UN Avenue)
- Josephine's Restaurant (Tagaytay)
- Kamayan (All Branches)
- Le Souffle Restaurant & Wine Bar (Makati)
- Le Souffle Restaurant & Wine Bar (Global City)
- Little Asia (Tomas Morato & Promenade)
- Macau Restaurant (Quezon City)
- Max's Ermita Group, Inc.
- Max's Quezon City, Inc.
- Max's Makati Group, Inc.
- Max Franchising, Inc.
- Max's Central Advertising (All Branches)
- MXT Restaurant (formerly Maxim's Restaurant)
- Mexicalli Restaurant (All Branches)
- National Sports Grill (Greenbelt)
- Oakwood Premier Restaurant (Makati)
- Osteria Italia (Quezon City)
- Oyster Boy (Ortigas & Cubao)
- Patio Guernica's (M.H Del Pilar)
- Patio Guernica's (Malate)
- Penang Hill Restaurant Inc. (Promenade Greenhills)
- Portico (Malate)
- Saint's Café (Quezon City)
- Saisaki (All Branches)
- Sake San (Mandaluyong)
- Sbarro (All Branches)
- Serye (Quezon City)
- Side Bar Cafe (Malate & Ortigas)
- Taco Bell (Gateway & E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue)
- Taste Armsters (LJC Group) Eastwood
- Teak Bistro Bar (Rockwell)
- Temple Bar & Restaurant (Makati City)
- Triple V Express (Mandaluyong)
- Zamboanga Restaurant

F. MALLS/RETAIL STORES/SPA/CLINIC
- Ace Hardware
- ASB Holdings - St. Francis Square
- Ayala Alabang Town Center
- Ayala Center (Cebu City)
- Ayala Land, Inc (Makati)
- Belo Medical Group
- Crossings (NBS)
- Duty Free
- Factory Sales Outlet
- Folded & Hung (All Branches)
- Gift Gate - Glorietta
- Globe Telecom Wireless Centers (All Branches)
- Golden ABC (Penshoppe) All Branches
- Handyman (All Branches)
- Hang Ten (All Branches)
- Isettan Department Store (All Branches)
- Let's Face It (all branches)
- Marks & Spencer (All Branches)
- Market! Market! (Global City)
- Marie France/Svenson/Facial Care/Skin Lab (All Branches)
- National Bookstore (All Branches)
- Our Home (All Branches)
- Oxygen (All Branches)
- People Are People (All Branches)
- Pipay Garments, Inc. (Mandaluyong)
- Podium (Ortigas)
- PowerBooks (All Branches)
- Rustan's Specialty Concepts, Inc. (Debenhams Boutique)
- Sister In Style (Makati)
- Shoe Mart (All Branches)
- Story Land (All Branches)
- Toy Kingdom (All Branches)
- Velo Sante, Inc. - Loyola Spinning Studio (Katipunan)
- Watsons (All SM Branches)
- Weighless Center & Body Face (all branches)

G. VENUES
- Cultural Center of the Philippines
- Music Museum Group Inc.
- Paco Park
- PAGCOR/Casino (All Branches)

H. CABLE OPERATORS/TV NETWORKS
- ABS CBN NETWORK, INC
- Associated Broadcasting Company (ABC-5)
- Binangonan TV Corporation/Skyline TV Corporation
- Cable Vision Systems Corporation
- Caceres TV Corporation
- Charles TV Corporation
- Destiny Cable
- GMA NETWORK, INC.
- GOA Cable TV
- Jade Cable TV System, Inc.

I. FM and AM STATIONS (Metro Manila & Provincial)
- ABC Development Corporation
- ABS CBN Network, Inc.
- Audiovisual Communicators, Inc.
- Bureau of Broadcast Services
  - (Phil. Broadcasting Corporation)
- Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
  - (Abra Broadcasting)
- Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
  - (Heart of Mary Stations)
- Cebu Broadcasting Company
- Christian ERA Broadcasting Service, Inc.
- Community Media Corporation
- Eagle Broadcasting Corporation
- Exodus Broadcasting Corporation
- Far East Broadcasting Company
- GMA Network, Inc.
- GV Broadcasting System
- Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation
- Manila Broadcasting Company
- Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation
- Notre Dame Broadcasting Corporation
- Pacific Broadcasting System
- People's Broadcasting Network
- Philippine Broadcasting Corporation
- Philippine Broadcasting Service
- Progressive Broadcasting Network
- R.T. Broadcast Specialist Philippines
- Radio Mindanao Network, Inc.
- Radio Philippines Network, Inc. (RPN9)
- Radio Veritas Global Broadcasting System
- RGMA Network, Inc.
- Solid North Broadcasting System
- Southern Broadcasting Network
- Subic Broadcasting Corporation
- Swara Sug Media Corporation
- Tagbilaran Broadcasting System
- Tirad Pass Radio TV Broadcast Network
- Ultimate Entertainment
- Ultrasonic Broadcasting System, Inc.
- UM Broadcasting Network
- United Broadcasting Corporation
- Vanguard Radio Network
- Vimcontu Broadcasting

J. ADVERTISING AGENCIES / MOVIE PRODUCERS
- ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation
- ABS-CBN Film Productions, Inc.
- Ace Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising
- Focus Entertainment, Inc.
- GMA Network, Inc.
- Harrison Communications
- JimenezBasic
- Lowe, Inc.
- M-Zet TV Production, Inc.
- Publicis Manila, Inc.
- Star Cinema Productions, Inc.
- Viva Productions, Inc.
- McCann Erickson Philippines
- Basic Advertising, Inc.
- Campaigns & Grey
- Hemisphere Leo Burnett
- Image Dimension
- J. Walter Thompson
- Ogilvy & Mather Phils.
- PAC Comm., Inc.
- SLG Advertising
- Vision Works
- Marigold Commodities Corp.

K. OTHERS / MUSIC PROVIDERS / CONTENT PROVIDERS
- ABS CBN Interactive, Inc.
- Audio Emage (for Adidas Philippines, Inc. Outlets)
- AudioWav (for Walter Mart outlets)
- CAVS Multimedia, Inc. (Built-in chips)
- Digital Music Corporation (DMC Website)
  - for Globe Ringtones
- Enter International Philippines, Inc. (EIP)
  - Magic Mic
- Entertainment Gateway Group
- Information Gateway, Inc.
- Jollibee Foods Corporation (Website)
- Music to My Ears (Shangri -La Mall -Edsa)
- Next Ideas, Inc.
- Omni Source International
- Playnetwork (for Starbucks branches)
- Store Ads, Inc. (for Rustan's, Landmark
  - & Shopwise outlets)

(CONT. K. OTHERS / MUSIC PROVIDERS / CONTENT PROVIDERS
- Video Vox Corporation (Magic Mic)
- Wireless Services, Inc. (for Globe Ringtones)

L. CONCERT PRODUCERS
- ABS CBN Broadcasting Corporation
- Acoustic Gold Production
- ALV Events International, Inc.
- Aria Productions, Inc.
- Asian Events Directors, Inc.
- Bamboo Organ Foundation, Inc.
- BCP Pinpoint
- Big Fish International Inc.
- Candid Records
- Carousel Productions, Inc.
- Click Licensing Asia
- Concertus, Inc.
- Creative Programs (a subsidiary of ABS-CBN)
- De La Salle University
- Dentsu Phils
- DL Media
- DSL Productions
- E - Real Records
- E-Talent
- Events.work
- Eventscape Prod. & Consultancy, Inc.
- Fame/Smart Communications, Inc.
- Fookien Times
- GMA Network, Inc.
- GoldenEarth Events Mngmt & Mktg Corp.
- Headline Concepts, Inc.
- IBC-13
- JMC Clothing
- JL55 Production Exponents
- Kaona Grill
- Kool Telekasts
- Live Artists Production, Inc.
- Manila Philharmonic Orchestra
- Manna Ent't., Inc.
- Market Bridges
- Maximedia International, Inc.
- Music Television
- Mustard, Inc.
- Newsmakers Promotions & Publications
- On Q 28 Production
- Ovation Productions, Inc.
- PARI
- Philprogress Foundation
- Real Talent & Management
- Redrum Music
- Renaissance Ent't Corp.
- San Miguel Foundation/Ayala Land
- Select Media, Inc.
- Shepherd's Voice Publishing
- Solar Entertainment Corp.
- Sony BMG Music Entertainment (Phils), Inc.
- Spooky Productions
- St. James - COPA
- St. Theresa's School
- Stages Productions Specialists, Inc.
- Starmedia Entertainment Corporation
- Steve O'neal Productions
- Stratsplus Events Management
- The Music Source, Inc.
- The Thirdline, Inc.
- Ultimate Entertainment, Inc.
- Uniprom, Inc.
- United Multiart Production, Inc
- Venice Bench Industries
- Viva Artists Agency, Inc.

M. RECORD COMPANIES/MECHANICAL RIGHTS
- Able Music Int'l Inc.
- Alpha Music Corporation
- Business Arts, Inc.
- EIP, INC.
- EMI Philippines, Inc.
- Galaxy Records
- Global Conent Center
- Ivory Records Corporation
- MCA Music, Inc.
- Montage Productions
- Philam Foundations, Inc.
- Psalms Records Studio
- Reddmon Prods & Management, Inc.
- RGMA Marketing & Productions, Inc.
- Sony/BMG Music Entertainment Phiils.
- Star Recording, Inc.
- Taipei International Church
- Universal Records
- UP Singing Ambassadors
- Vicor Music Corporation
- Viva Records Corporation

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Panasonic, Imax for the ultimate movie experience

ELECTRONICS GIANT PANASONIC has been chosen by Imax Corp to be its partner in providing the ultimate movie experience in the Philippines.

This is the fifth time that Panasonic, with its state-of-the-art technology and complete line of audio-video products, was tapped by Imax to serve as its home entertainment partner in its giant theater. Panasonic and Imax have been combining their forces for the past decade, beginning in Sydney, Australia, and moving on to other Imax theaters in Thailand, Poland and the United States.

Rene T. Almeda, president of Panasonic Philippines, said the entire Panasonic family is proud to have been chosen by Imax for its first ever project in the country.

"This is clear proof of the trust and confidence of Imax on the Panasonic brand, being a giant in home entertainment," Almeda said. "Panasonic complements Imax because of its superiority and leadership in the market."

According to Almeda, Imax is the "Mt. Everest" of out-of-home movie viewing and it is Panasonic's great honor to be chosen by IMAX as its partner from among the many brands in home entertainment.

"We have the most complete line of products that can give the ultimate home theater experience," he said.

The Imax Theater at the SM Mall of Asia is without doubt the ultimate in movie viewing in the Philippines, with crystal-clear images as big as an eight-story building and wrap-around digital sound emanating from 44 sub-bass speakers for 12,000 watts of power.

As a preview of that experience, moviegoers can have a sample of what to see and hear inside the theater through several Panasonic plasma screens at the Imax Theatre lobby. The moviegoers can have a glimpse of how superior the Imax technology is through the Panasonic screens, some of them as wide as 65 inches.

In the future, Almeda said Panasonic customers would have exclusive privileges at the Imax Theatre as part of the Panasonic-Imax tie-up.

In the meantime, Almeda is inviting all Filipinos to experience for themselves the magic of Imax with the ongoing screening of the movie "Superman Returns", the first Hollywood live action film to be shot partly on Imax 3D format.

"Many of us dream of flying. Now, with the Imax technology, we can experience the joy and thrill of flying like Superman," the Panasonic boss said.

'he Official Home Entertainment Partner of the IMAX T

PANASONIC Philippines president Rene T. Almeda (2nd from right) shakes hands with engineer Ric Camaligan, first vice president of the SM Supermalls. With them are Jim Patterson of Imax Theatre (left) and Hiroyuki Iwaki, Panasonic's sales and marketing director.

AGSB prepares 40th anniversary activities

THE ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF Business (AGSB), with campuses in Rockwell Center, Makati and in HV de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, is preparing a host of activities in celebration of its 40th anniversary this year.

On July 27, the school will host a Business Leadership Forum featuring compelling talks on the forum's theme: "Take a Chance on Ourselves, Invest in the Philippines". Speakers for this event are Finance Secretary Gary Teves, PLDT chair Manny Pangilinan and Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto. The event will be held at the auditorium of the Ateneo Professional Schools (APS) Building in Rockwell Center, with web conferencing to AGSB's off-campus sites in Cebu, Sta. Rosa, and Subic.

To mark the 40th anniversary in campus, exhibits of photos of AGSB history, its current thrust and memorabilia items will be on display at the Atrium of the APS Building in Rockwell Center starting July 27. The exhibit will offer visitors a glimpse of AGSB's historic development as one of the country's premier graduate business schools. Tours will also be conducted on Aug. 3 and 4; 10 and 11; 17 and 18 and 24 and 25 for visitors to be oriented on AGSB programs and to view the library and facilities.

This November, a Students and Alumni Night will be held to bring together students, faculty and alumni for an evening of fun and celebration. During this event, the school will present the AGSB Outstanding Alumni Awards in recognition of alumni who have shown exemplary performance in various fields. In line with this, the school has called on all alumni to update records and contact information as it assembles a special 2006 edition of its alumni directory. An alumni record update form is available for download at www.gsb.ateneo.edu. Contact information may be submitted via e-mail to the Registrar at agsb40@aps.ateneo.edu or faxed to 899-5548. Drop boxes are also available at the 2nd floor of the Ateneo Professional Schools (APS) Building in Rockwell Center.

As part of its 40th anniversary celebration, the AGSB will also launch various publications including a commemorative book, a case book on business leadership and ethics, and a book on health. With the assistance of students, alumni, faculty and staff, it also hopes to be able to raise funds to support the construction of 40 houses for the underprivileged under Gawad Kalinga.

Melatonin an all-natural nightcap

ROSARIO P, 72-YEAR-OLD GRANDmother; Mauro T, 32-year-old call-center agent, Lisandro D, 54-year-old stressed executive who travels frequently, and Laura D, 52-year-old housewife who is a self-confessed television addict. What do these people have in common? They used to have sleep problems and have benefited a lot from taking melatonin supplementation nightly.

· Melatonin is a natural hormone that regulates sleep. During daylight, the pineal gland in the brain produces an important neurotransmitter called serotonin. (A neurotransmitter is a chemical that relays messages between nerve cells.) But at night, the pineal gland stops producing serotonin and instead makes melatonin. This melatonin release helps trigger sleep.

The production of melatonin varies according to the amount of light one is exposed to; such that the body produces more melatonin in a completely dark room than in a dimly lit one.

Melatonin supplements appear to be helpful for people whose natural sleep cycle has been disturbed, such as travelers suffering from jet lag. Melatonin may also be helpful in various other sleep disorders.

Melatonin secretion decreases as we get older. Scientists believe this may be the reason older people have problems sleeping and they have shorter hours of sleep.

Health experts are also now seriously studying the possibility of melatonin's potential benefit in extending the lifespan. In test-tube and animal experiments, researchers have found that melatonin protects cells, strengthens the immune system, slows the growth of some tumors, and protects the heart and blood vessels. Tests with laboratory mice suggest that melatonin might also reduce the effects of aging and enhance sexual function, but scientists caution that these results are very preliminary and still not conclusive. Experts agree though that the preliminary findings are exciting and promising.

Scientists have shown that in tests on both rats and mice, melatonin caused a significant 20-percent increase in the lifespan of these experimental animals. There are, however, no human studies to support this contention, but if a similar effect is present in humans, this could translate into an additional 10 to14 years of additional lifespan.

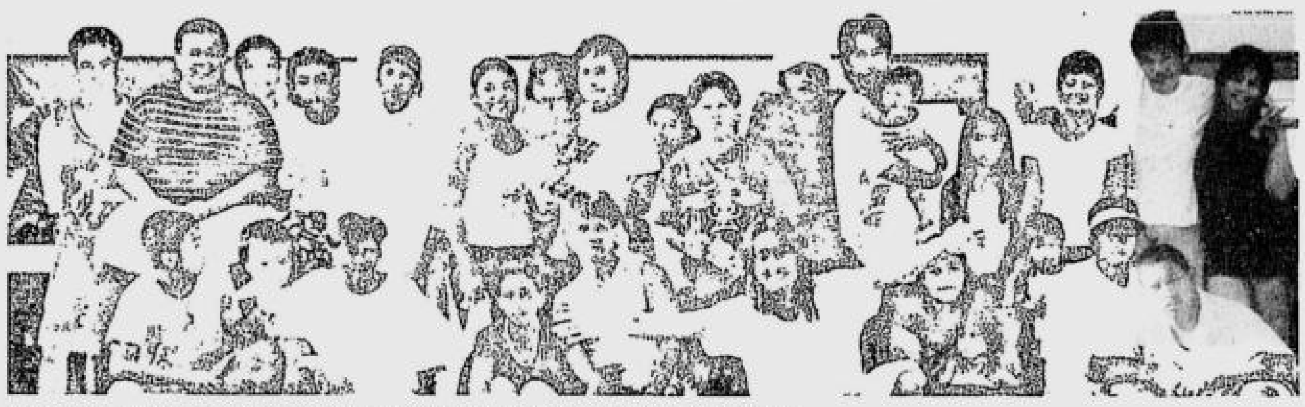
Experts believe that if melatonin does allow one to live longer and healthier, it is likely due to melatonin's benefit of reducing free radical damage; stimulating an aging immune system; protecting the cardiovascular system; preserving a youthful circadian rhythm; and stimulating the production of growth hormone.

Trianon International, which distributes Melatonin-T capsules locally, recommends it to help hasten sleep and ease jet lag, without the hazards or side effects of prescription sleeping pills. For those with any concomitant medical condition they should consult their physician first before taking melatonin.

Trianon Melatonin-T is available as an over-the-counter supplement in Mercury, Watson and other leading drug stores nationwide.

PISM new president, 1st GMM

CARMELO C. OCAMPO, FSM AND VP for logistics, procurement and administration of Digitel Mobile Philippines (Sun Cellular), is the new president of the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM), a non-stock, non-profit organization of supply management professionals from Top 1000 corporations. Prior to his presidency, Ocampo served the board as 2nd vice president and treasurer. The first general membership meeting and induction of new officers is set today at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. Inducting officer will be Emily Abrera, chair emeritus of McCann World Group, as she also shares her insight on leadership. Other elected officers are: 1st VP Angel V. Gatchalian Jr, CPM of Del Monte Philippines; 2nd VP Daniel C. Belbis, CPM of General Milling Corp; 3rd VP Lourdes V. Bambalan of Flexocorp Inc; treasurer Paul A. Hamoy of Aboitiz Transport System Corp, and corporate secretary Frisco L. Guce, CPM, DSM of International Rice Research Institute.



SAN ANDRES BUKID TODA'S DAY OF FUN IN LAGUNA

Members and families of the San Andres Bukid Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association held their first-ever family get-together April 9 at the Miramonte Village in Pansol, Laguna. Shown during the happy affair are Jerry Ruiz, Darwin Mendoza, Amor Perdigon, Gabriel Olmedilla, George Poblete, Archie Negrite, Orly Taperla, Jonathan Castillo, Alfredo Silvano, Jonathan Hernane, Roel Furio, Ogie Villaroel, and Junior.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

A. MONITORING AND EDP DIVISION (MED)

1. **Computer Programmer III SG 18 (1 position)**
   Item No. OMBA-COMPRO3-1-1998

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; **Experience**: 2 years of relevant experience; **Training**: 8 hours of relevant training; **Eligibility**: Career Service (Professional) / Second Level Eligibility

2. **Computer Programmer II SG 15 (1 position)**
   Item No. OMBA-COMPRO2-2-1998

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; **Experience**: 1 year of relevant experience; **Training**: 4 hours of relevant training; **Eligibility**: Career Service (Professional) / Second Level Eligibility

3. **Computer Operator III SG 12 (1 position)**
   Item No. OMBA-COMPO3-2-1998

Education: Completion of two years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational / trade course; **Experience**: 2 years of relevant experience; **Training**: 8 hours of relevant training; **Eligibility**: Career Service (Subprofessional) / Data Encoder (MC 11, s.96 Cat.I First Level Eligibility

4. **Project Evaluation Officer I SG 11 (1 position)**
   Item No. OMBA-PEO1-1-1998

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; **Experience**: None required; **Training**: None required; **Eligibility**: Career Service (Professional) / Second Level Eligibility

5. **Computer Operator II SG 9 (1 position)**
   Item No. OMBA-COMPO2-2-1998

Education: Completion of two years studies in College or High School Graduate with relevant vocational / trade course; **Experience**: 1 year of relevant experience; **Training**: 4 hours of relevant training; **Eligibility**: Career Service (Subprofessional) / Data Encoder MC 11, s.96 Cat. I First Level Eligibility

6. **Project Evaluation Assistant SG 8 (1 position)**
   Item No. OMBA-PEA-1-1998

Education: Completion of two years studies in college; **Experience**: 1 year of relevant experience; **Training**: 4 hours of relevant training, **Eligibility**: Career Service (Subprofessional) / First Level Eligibility

B. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB)-C

1. **Stenographic Reporter III SG 11 (1 position)**
   Item No. OMBA-STENR3-28-1998

Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in College; **Experience**: Two (2) years of relevant experience; **Training**: Eight (8) hours of relevant training; **Eligibility**: Career Service (Subprofessional) / First Level Eligibility

Applicants should submit within ten (10) calendar days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1" x 1" picture (colored)
4) * Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) * Transcript of Records;
6) * Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) * Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8) * Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

* Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Fixed Wireless GSM and GPRS Modem
(Reference No.: PB060504-EL0080)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of ***Php 7,500,000.00*** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Fixed Wireless GSM and GPRS Modem**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Modems*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting **July 21, 2006 to August 23, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)***. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **August 9, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at same address below. Requests for clarification on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 A.M. of August 24, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 75,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 112,500.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 187,500.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 7,500,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **August 24, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 21 & 28 2006)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 3-PHASE MULTIFUNCTION MEASURING EQUIPMENT
(Reference No.: PB060620-PP0100)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board*, intends to apply the sum of the following ***Php 4,000,000.00*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***PR No. EMD-06-000017879***. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the supply and delivery of 3-Phase Multifunction Measuring Equipment*. Delivery of the GOODS is required ***sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Order***. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from ***July 20, 2006 to August 14, 2006*** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Php 1,000.00***. The method of payment will be ***Cash***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***August 01, 2006 / 10:00 A.M.*** *at the address below. Requests for clarification on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-bid Conference.*
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***August 15, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 40,000.00
2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 60,000.00
3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 100,000.00
4. Foreign Government Guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 4,000,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on ***August 15, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.*** at the ***Admin Conference Room same address below***. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No. (632) 9812207 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 21 & 28 2006)

Our Dearly beloved

LEONILA L. REGIO

April 11, 1915 – July 17, 2006

Her husband **Ernesto**†, bereaved children **Elwin**† and **Conchita, Emmanuel** and **Irene, Efren** and **Remia, Estrella, Ramon** and **Ursula**, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 23, 2006 at the Heritage Memorial Park after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 9a.m.

Our Beloved Mother

Teresita Jimenez-Noda

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband, Marcelino S. Noda (†) on July 19, 2006 at the age of 56

Her children Jerome, Jude and Jessica, John and Maricel, Joyce and Jhune and grandchild Pamela, beloved parents Amado and Aquilina Jimenez, sisters and brothers, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt Carmel Shrine Parish, Broadway, New Manila, Q.C from July 20-21, 2006.

Her remains will be transferred on July 22 at I. Reyes St., Sorsogon City.

Interment will be on July 27, 2006 at Sorsogon Catholic Cemetery

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Dra. Claudette Cecilia "Babette"
C. Magadia-Aguilon,
MD, FPCCP, FACP

Wish to convey our deepest appreciation to all of you, our relatives and friends, her colleagues and patients, who spent precious time with us, sent flowers, mass cards, gave donations, or in some other way expressed your love, concern, and support in celebrating Babette's coming home to her Creator.

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith."
(2 Timothy 4)

ZENAIDA CARMONA-SANTOS

April 27, 1925 – July 19, 2006

Founder, Circulo Cagayano Foundation

Her loving children Nona and Jimmy, Veron and Tony, Ting and Mitos, Neneng and Danny, Chit and Bing, Boogie and Joy and grandchildren request to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Q.C.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 23, 2006 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Q.C. after the 9:00 morning Mass.

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS **More Classified Ads:**

Home Guaranty & TransCo .... **A6 & A17**
Puerto Princesa Water District & NFA **A8**
Tarlac Electic **B2**

The Dominican Province of the Philippines,
Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas,
University of Santo Tomas
and the bereaved family

request the faithful to pray
for the eternal repose of

BRO. RODOLFO M. ATIENZA, O.P.

(1945 - 2006)

Superintendent, UST Buildings and Ground Office, who peacefully joined our Creator on July 18, 2006.

His remains lie in state at:

Talisay, Batangas	*July 21, 2006*
UST Chapel	*July 22, 2006*

After the Funeral Mass on Saturday, July 22 at 2:00 p.m. at the UST Chapel, interment will immediately follow at the Sanctuario del Santo Cristo, San Juan, Metro Manila.

> "I am the Resurrection and the Life, whoever believes in Me will live, even though he dies: and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
>
> John 11:25-26

CLASSIFIEDS

HEADQUARTERS
ARMAMENT AND AMMUNITION CENTER
ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, PHILIPPINE ARMY
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The Armament and Ammunition Center, ASCOM, PA will conduct a Pre-Bidding Pre-Qualification conference on 11 August 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Hqs MSU Tarlac, Camp Servillano Aquino, Tarlac City, for the sale through public bidding of one (1) lot of assorted salvage/junked vehicles, engines and motorcycles under CV Nr 005-04, one (1) lot of assorted scrap and residues of QM, Ordinance, Engineer, Signal, Medical and Dental items under CV 006-04, and one (1) lot of brass empty shells, 4.45 tons exploded, burnt, and scrap ammunition parts under CV 007-04 all located at MSu Tarlac, under MSUT ITB 2006-001 on "AS-IS, Where IS" basis

Interested buyers may secure their Bid Form at the Secretariat, AAC, ASCOM, PA. Point of contact LTC WENCESLAO I TAPAWAN OS (GSC) PA, Commanding Officer, MSUT, ASCOM, PA at PLDT Tel Number (045) 985-0028 Local 31-14.

GERRY P. AMANTE
LTC OS (GSC) PA
Chairman, AAC, ASCOM, PA
Disposal Committee

(PDI – July 21, 22 & 23, 2006)

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MANILA GAS CORPORATION (MGC)
INTER-ISLAND GAS SERVICES INC. (IIGSI)

INVITATION TO PUBLIC BIDDING

MGC/IIGSI offers for sale through sealed public bidding on August 09, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, the following real estate properties:

1. *Paco North Property (MGC property)*
   The North Property is located at Sanciangco St., Paco, Manila and is composed of 3 contiguous lots:

TCT-34304	2,608.20 sq.m.
TCT-33924	2,231.40
TCT-33924	7,431.20
	12,270.80 sq.m.

2. *Cebu Property (IIGSI property)*
   The Cebu Property is located along the Barangay Road, Barangay Opao, Mandaue City and is composed of 2 ajoining lots:

TCT-18998	2,128.00 sq.m.
TCT-18999	9,529.00
	11,657.00 sq.m.

Due diligence period is from July 19 - August 04, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to be coordinated with the MGC/IIGSI Bids Committee. Interested parties may secure the Bidding Package starting July 19, 2006 from MGC c/o Mr. Efren Mancia, 7/F NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel. No. 8404838 loc. 223 & 313 / Fax No. 8404862 and IIGSI c/o Mr. Charlie Villegas, 3215 District 5 Sangi, Barangay Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City. Tel. No. 032-3418874. A pre-bidding conference is scheduled on July 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The sale of the above properties shall be strictly on **CASH**, on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS.**

MGC/IIGSI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive any of the formalities required, or to accept only such bids or portion of bids which is deemed advantageous to MGC/IIGSI.

(PDI - July 19, 20 & 21, 2006)

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Regional Office III
PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., San Agustin, San Fernando Pampanga
Healthline (046) 963-71-48 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PRO III - ITB No. III-06-001

PhilHealth Regional Office (PRO) III, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites data centers / encoding centers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	: Out-Sourcing of Data Conversion Services for PRO III Database
Location	: PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., City of San Fernando
Brief Description	: Encoding of PhilHealth Members' Contributions in the Quarterly Remittance Reports
Approved Budget for the Contract	: Php 2,100,000.00
Contract Duration	: 65 working days
Delivery Period	: Within 15 days after issuance of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 14, 2006 to July 28, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 28, 2006
3. Opening of Bids	August 9, 2006
4. Bid Evaluation	August 10 to 17, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	August 18 to 25, 2006
6. Notice of Award	September 11, 2006

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,100.00 to the Cashier of PhilHealth Regional Office III.

(Sgd.) **PRISCILLA G. ASUNCION**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 14 & 21, 2006)

International College of Dentists' quarterly meet set

DR. HERMOGENES P. VILLAREAL, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS (ICD) Philippines Section Inc has announced the holding of its second quarterly meeting on Wednesday, July 26 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Dr. Elisa G. Puzon, chair, Organizing Committee said the meeting, to be conducted in cooperation with United Laboratories Inc will focus on Charter Change and has invited as speakers, Secretary Michael T. Defensor, Presidential Chief of Staff, Reps. Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero, Luis R. Villafuerte, Gilbert Cesar C. Remulla, and lawyer Raul L. Lambino, national spokesman, "Sigaw ng Bayan" Movement for Charter Change. Guest moderators will be former Rep. Oscar M. Orbos and Prof. Solita C. Monsod of "Debate with Mare and Pare" of GMA Channel 7. Registration starts at 5:00 pm. For details, call the Section Secretary, Dr. Elizabeth C. Carrasco at 09279373028 or 631-9422.

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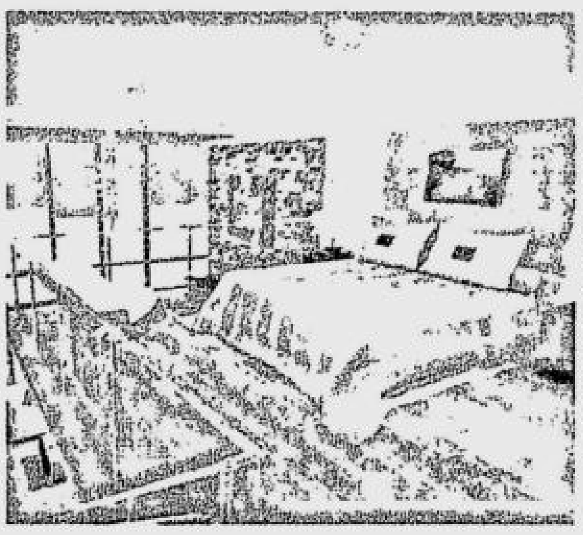

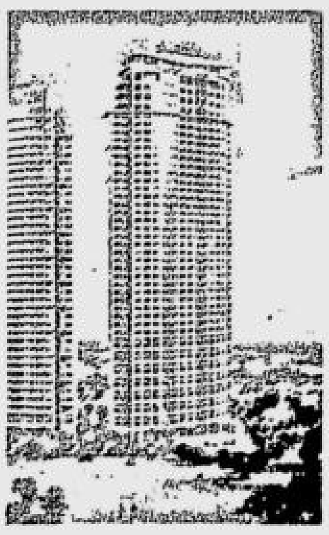

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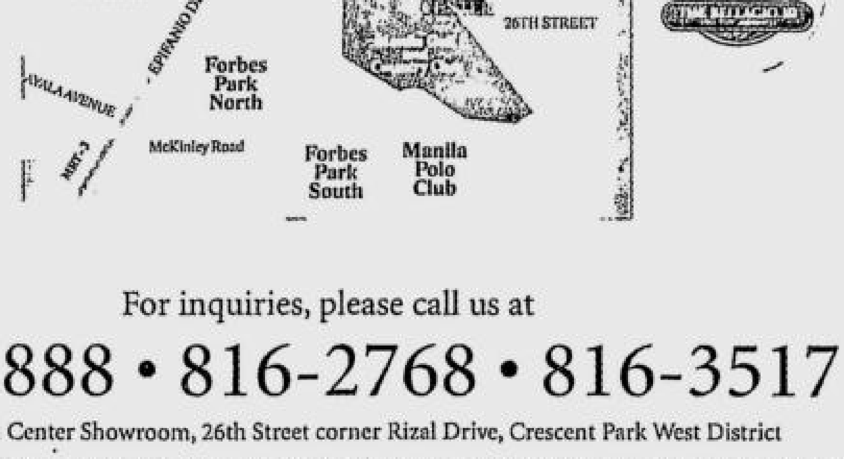
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For inquiries, please call us at

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LIFESTYLE

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The TIGI Curls Rock system makes perfect curls possible

Photography VICTOR CONSUNJI
Styling JANET DELA FUENTE
Hair and makeup JONATHAN VELASCO
Model VALERIE DELOS SANTOS
Outfits from Laundry by SHELLI SEGAL dresses and select Via Venetto shoes

BEAUTY

Making waves

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF MY hair. It started when I was a young girl. When we would pray at night my mom, who has curly hair, would pray that my sister and I would be spared of the curls that she got when she hit 13. Apparently, she had straight hair as a child: She said it could happen to us, too, thus the prayer.

She would also include my cousin Kara in her prayers, not mentioning my brother Joey and cousin Henry. But she told us that if their hair got curly when they hit adolescence, it would not be bad since they were boys and could easily sport short hair.

But it did happen to the boys. So my brother Joey shaves his hair because his curls are small, and my cousin Henry always keeps his hair short.

As for us girls, the prayers worked. Kara's hair is somewhat straight. My hair is wavy, that's why it's normally ponytailed. My sister Olive's, however, has big curls.

The truth is, among us cousins, I think my sister Olive's hair is the best. She just leaves it down and it looks styled.

Curls are in! So for those who have naturally curly hair, this is your time. Enjoy your curls and let your hair down.

The trend today is actually very forgiving to all hair types. If you have wavy hair, leave it that way. The disheveled look is sexy so no need to run to your salon and get it blow-dried.

The only thing you may want

MAKING/ C2

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TIGI Curls Rock system includes the Curls Rock Curl Amplifier which gives your curls shape and shine.

REALIZE great curls with the complete Tigi Curls Rock system including the Curls Rock Leave-in Moisturizer to lock in moisture.

From page C1

to do to your God-given hair is wear a headband. It is the easiest and most affordable fashion must-have these days.

Curl system that rocks

When it comes to hair, the newest trend is going curly. But maintaining great tamed curls is hard.

For those wishing for the perfect head of curly hair, fret no more! Tigi Catwalk's Curls Rock system, composed of five products with the 3-D action of defining, defrizzing and detangling curls, is your ultimate solution!

For starters, use the Curls Rock Curly Hair Shampoo and Conditioner to maintain your curls so they stay soft, bouncy and shiny.

Take conditioning one step farther by adding the Curls Rock Leave-In Moisturizer to towel-dried hair to lock in moisture.

To help your curls, the Curls Rock Leave-In Moisturizer may also be used as a second-day rehydrator.

For styling, use both the Curls Rock Curl Booster and Curl Amplifier. The Curl Booster gives curly hair incredible shape and shine—apply this non-stick formulated spray into the hair and diffuse or let dry naturally.

Then to get maximum definition for your curls, work the Curl Amplifier through damp hair and allow it to air-dry.

Or for medium hold that keeps big waves from wilting, use the Curl Amplifier on damp hair and dry with a diffuser.

Suitable for all curly hair lengths, from normal to dry, and with a fantastic aroma of fruit medley fused in, the Curls Rock system by Tigi Catwalk provides the ideal line of products to help you achieve those perfect soft curls you've been longing for!

Keeping it healthy

Since I color my hair, it is prone to dryness. An inexpensive way of taking care of my hair is buying hot oil treatment that can be bought at Mercury Drug or PCX.

Normally a jar would cost less than P300 and last a long time since I only use it when I feel the need to. When picking a conditioner, make sure it fits the need of your hair.

Specific needs can be addressed by different variants available today. They call hair "the crowning glory." Make sure yours is so!

TIGI Catwalk Curls Rock products are available in leading salons. Call Hairministry Inc., 6870424.

E-mail me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

ACHIEVE dramatic curly hair with the complete Tigi Curls Rock system.

WITH the Tigi Curls Rock system you can get defined curls by using the Curls Rock Curls Booster.

cut & keep

AFTER

Lip service

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan

With these simple steps, you can create sexier, poutier lips without the hassle of surgery

BEFORE

THERE IS PROBABLY NO facial feature more significant and important for a woman than her lips. If the eyebrows frame the face, then the lips balance everything. Luscious, pouty and sexy lips are a woman's gateway to her two most seductive sources of power—her voice and her sensuality.

Not surprisingly, lips are often the concentration when it comes to makeup. We can forego everything except our beloved lipsticks. Even young girls playing grown-up start with lipstick.

Angelina Jolie, Michelle Pfeiffer and Julia Roberts have the most coveted lips among women. You are lucky if you're born with lips like theirs.

Some women now resort to lip augmentation. Although generally safe, lip enlargement involves certain risks such as scarring, hardening of the lips and swelling. Also possible are allergic reactions, drooling, infection and, in worst cases, deformed placement of the collagen on the lips.

Thus, some feel a certain reluctance to partake of the quest for that perfect pout once they hear about the scary side effects, not to mention the cost and the maintenance. Good thing there is makeup, and with just these simple steps, you can create sexier, poutier lips without the hassle of surgery.

1. Using a sponge, apply foundation all over the lips. This will create a sort of blank canvas.

2. Powder the entire lips to help set the foundation for the lipstick. This way, the lipstick stays on.

3. Using a neutral lip pencil, outline the desired shape and size of the top and bottom lips. Start at your cupid's bow (it's the two indented parts of your upper lip) and draw toward the outer part. Slightly expand the edges for a fuller look. Do the same thing on your lower lip. By doing this, you are enlarging the appearance of your lips, making them more pronounced. Use lip liners in taupe, flesh or sweet pink. Mac Lip liners have the perfect shades for that natural look.

4. Fill in the entire area with pencil. This creates another layer to help keep the color on the lips longer and maintain a look that's natural for the lip size.

5. For the final step, fill in the lips with a lip gloss or lipstick in a neutral shade for that moist and plump look. Maybelline's Moisture Extreme Lipstick in Buff is the perfect shade if you want to achieve this look. It's smudgeproof, has SPF and it also moisturizes your lips so you don't need to apply a lip balm or a gloss.

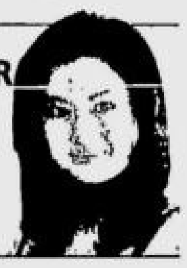
6. Using the sponge you used earlier, apply loose powder around the edges of the lips to set the lips and fill in the ridges. This should prevent the lipstick from bleeding downwards.

E-mail the author at bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com

Dealing with nails, lashes and other beauty frustrations

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas



ONE GOOD THING about adulthood is that nobody can impose cosmetic rules on you anymore. You can do what you want and if people tell you your makeup is excessive or they don't like it, you don't have to follow their advice because how you look isn't really anyone's business!

My first stop was Beauty Bar Power Plant Mall at Rockwell, which opened its first Dashing Diva (DD) Nail Bar, a franchise from New York, but whose prices are adjusted for the Philippine market.

I opted for the press on acrylic nails called "Virtual Nails" (P800) which has a full set of 10 for all fingernail sizes with the nail color of my choice.

The line has 160 nail sizes to fit every size, from the biggest woman to the youngest child, so everyone is ensured a perfect fit.

The attendants attach really long transparent curved acrylic nails on you, then ask you how long you want them.

That day, most picked a little past the finger pads and asked for a milky nude shade.

Mine were extra long, of Playboy-bunny length (aka porno nails), and painted deep red in DD's Harriet's Hot Tamale. They are meant to be kept for two weeks maximum, then soaked and removed.

If you want to have new ones put in after that the same rules apply. They were pretty sturdy as I typed and texted using my nails for seven days straight.

Buttons and zippers were a struggle at first and people in public restrooms cursed me as I was taking so long in a stall just trying to dress myself.

Exactly a week to the day I had them installed, my texting-overworked thumbnail cracked, so although the others were still perfect I had them soaked and removed (P350) with DD's special solution that dissolves the acrylic.

Lisa installed my virtual nails while Mely removed them.

I must say, my guy friends were mesmerized and said they were transported back to their days of puberty, when vampy girls in skimpy clothes made their mouths water.

Thursday and Friday are girls night-out days, so DD is open till 8:30 p.m. on Thursday and 9:30 on Friday, during which a free alcoholic drink is served free for every nail treatment.

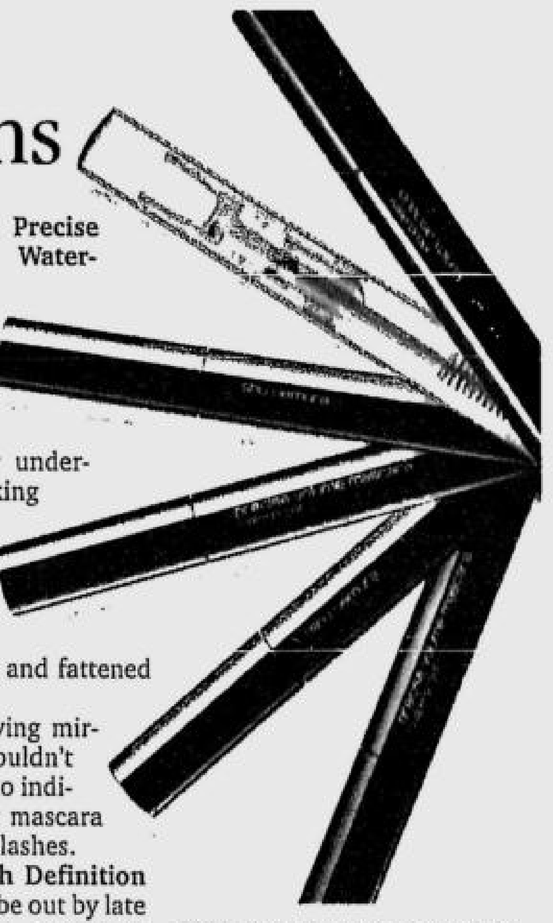
Lashes

Another frustration of mine are long, thick, curvy Latina lashes. I have long lashes, but they're thin, brownish, straight and pointed downwards.

I thought of reinstalling my eyelash extensions from philosophy by Mikaela (P2,050), but those need extra care when cleaning your face and eye area.

I opted for Mikaela's eyelash perm (P850), which made my lashes appear curled and long, Plus they made my eyes look bigger and brighter.

Droopy lashes make eyes look tired. It's so liberating to pack away my eyelash curler and cut makeup time shorter. For thick, extra-long and defined lashes, there are fabulous new mascaras in the market.



SHU UEMURA Precise Volume Mascara Waterproof

1) **Shu Uemura Precise Volume Mascara Waterproof** (P1,795), which comes in five shades—black, brown, purple, green and blue.

I got brown for understated, natural-looking lashes, as well as black for drama. They make lashes look naturally lush and long as each lash is coated and fattened up.

I used a magnifying mirror, and I swear I couldn't see a single clump to indicate I was wearing mascara even on the bottom lashes.

2) **Clinique High Definition Lashes**, which will be out by late August. Its unique applicator comes with a brush that separates, lengthens and defines each lash for no clumping.

To add more drama, one could use the lash comb side and watch while the lashes become 10 times thicker and darker, one wouldn't need an eyeliner for the upper lids.

The lashes would look like Spanish fans but in a magnifying mirror, one could see some clumping.

The brush side is ideal for bottom lashes as well. But come on, who will really zoom into your face that close unless he wants to get slapped?

3) **L'Oreal Volume Shocking Mascara.** Make sure your lashes are curled when you apply this so you will achieve the perfect false eyelashes that will not need upper lid liner.

Applying this on straight lashes will make them all clump together so you end up with what will appear to be eight fat lashes like Tarantula legs. Don't even think of applying this on the lower lashes.

My other classic mascara favorites that make lashes look vampy, sexy and mysterious: L'Oreal Lash Architect, Maybelline XXL and Lancôme L'Extreme (P2,195)

The above are my greatest indulgences, for I want lashes that look longer, thicker, defined and clump-free. Even applied on straight lashes, any of the products would provide the eyelash extension effect.

You may also try the MAC Zoomlash, Awake Roll curl mascara (P1,700) which thickens, lengthens and curls lashes even without a lash curler.

The product is waterproof; only a special oil-based remover can take it off. It is resistant to tears, sweat and even skin oils.

Call Philosophy by Mikaela Salon, 8921574, 8185401, 8187469.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

New scents for him and her

BORGY Manotoc

PINK AND BLUE SODA HAS NEW FRAGRANCES for men and women—Pink Soda's Acid Jeans Cologne and Blue Soda's Raw Denim Cologne.

Both scents are characterized by "metropolitan sophistication."

Intense and elegant, Pink Soda's Acid Jeans Cologne radiates heat and passion. It is best for the woman whose days don't end when the clock strikes 6.

Pink Soda's endorser is singer-television host Mariel Rodriguez.

Blue Soda's Raw Denim Cologne is an enhanced sparkling citrus fragrance that's fresh, sensual and masculine. It's the scent for men with an active lifestyle.

Top model Borgy Manotoc, Blue Soda's endorser, reflects the new fragrance's spirit of adventure.

Both cologne lines come in specially designed denim-inspired aesol canisters.

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PINK SODA

MARIELLE Rodriguez

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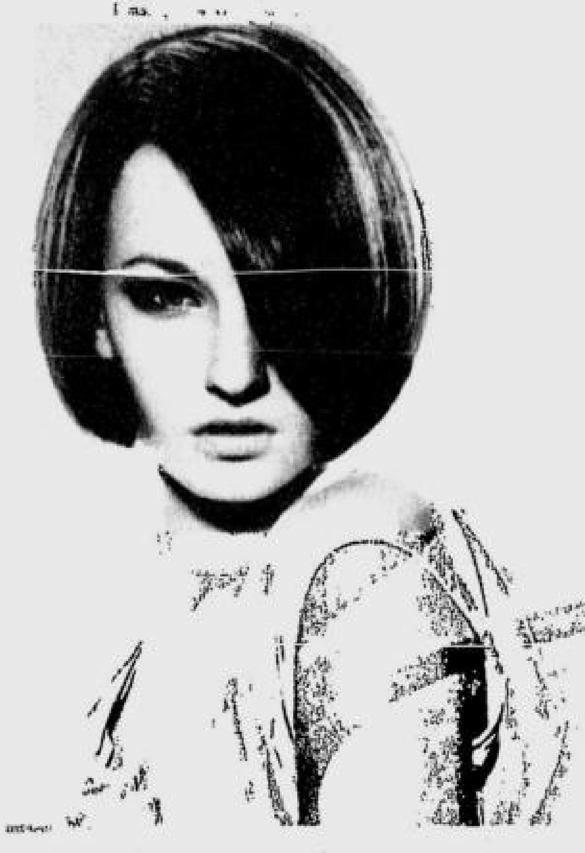


WELLA'S TREND VISION Award 2006 goes onstage at the ballroom of Shangri-La Hotel Makati on July 27 at 6 p.m.

The much-awaited annual event offers young hairdressers the opportunity to show their potential as hair artists by creating personal interpretations of current trends based on the Wella Trend Vision concepts.

The 14 outstanding salon teams chosen as finalists from the numerous qualifying entries and who will be competing during the Awards Night are: from Metro Manila, David's Salon (SM Manila & Robinson's Galleria branches), Emphasis (Rockwell-Makati), Hair UK (Timog, Quezon City), Headzone (Edsa Shangri-la), Index (Sta. Ana), Jesi Mendez (Macapagal Ave.), Piandre (People Support, Makati), Reyes Haircutters (Anonas & Arayat branches, Quezon City), Vivere Salon (Robinson's Galleria); and from the provinces, Claudia Hair & Makeup Salon in Pampanga, Fresh Blossom and Hair Studio, both based in Davao City.

Each of the competing teams will interpret one of the following trend concepts from Wella this year: Techno Nature, Real Daydream, World Fusion, and Gothic Luxury.

Techno Nature combines authenticity and modernity, nature and technology. Inspired by the structures of nature, the look uses pure pastel colors and metallic tones that conjure up images of sparkling water, clear blue sky, and icy wind.

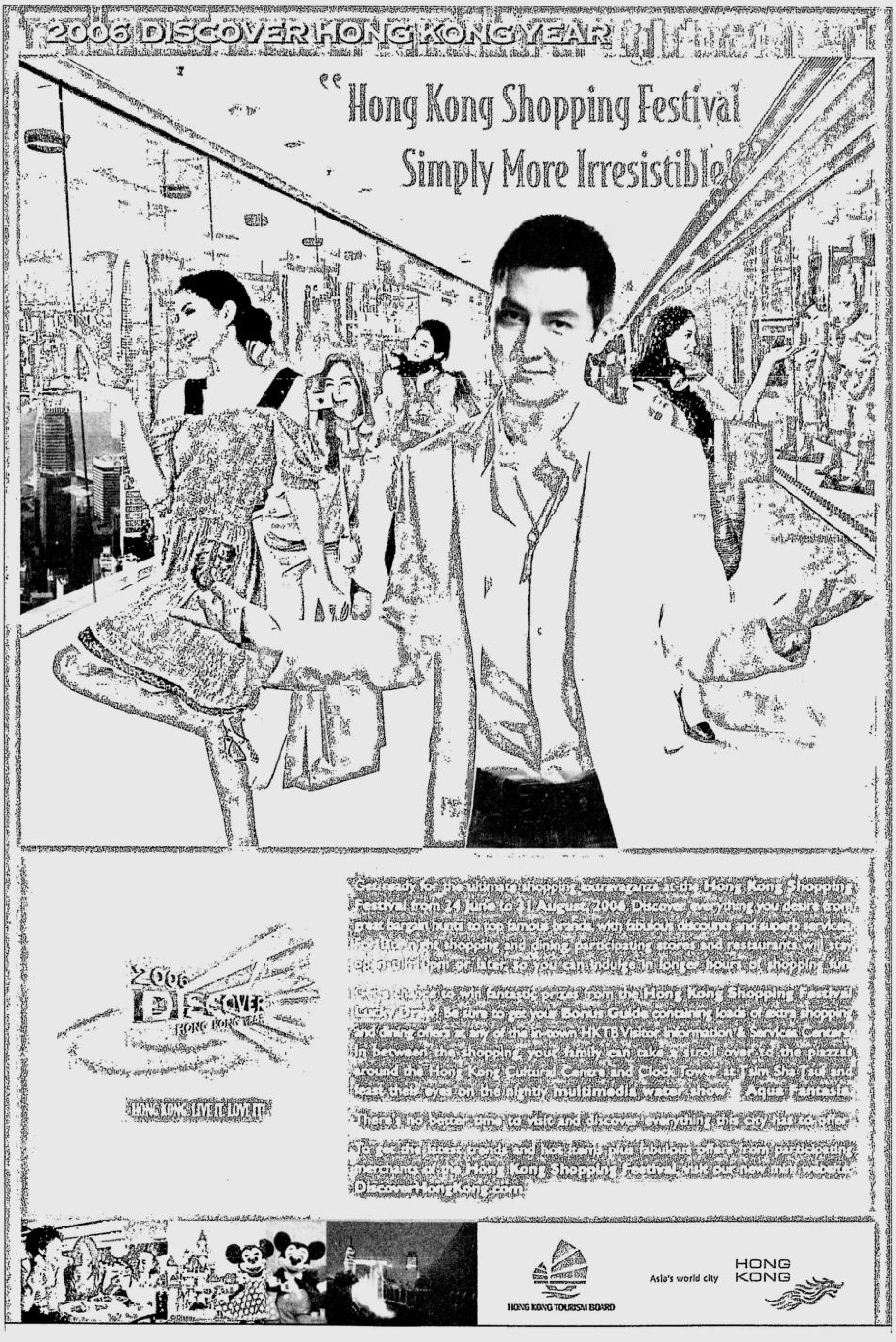
Real Daydream opens up a world of fantasy where memories are invoked, creating a gentle harmony between the nostalgic and the contemporary. Light, fruity, flowery tones recall a garden at sundown, with blackberry bushes, fruit trees, and blossoms bathed in warm, gentle light.

World Fusion unveils the most diverse cultural influences, fusing fragments of color, form and design from Peru, Lapland, Hawaii, Kenya, and India. Intense Hawaii-blue, rich lemon, lush hibiscus red and brilliant pink dominate.

Gothic Luxury expresses our yearning for myth, drama and sensuous delights. Inspired by black-and-white graphic designs, a pale, shimmering skin is contrasted by black leather and lace, or flowing robes that envelop the body, The look is capped with diamonds, pearls or silverworks.

The winning team—composed of a stylist, an assistant, plus their model—will represent the Philippines and compete in the international Wella Trend Vision Award to be held in Milan, Italy, on Nov. 12.

Call 8443179 or 8932234.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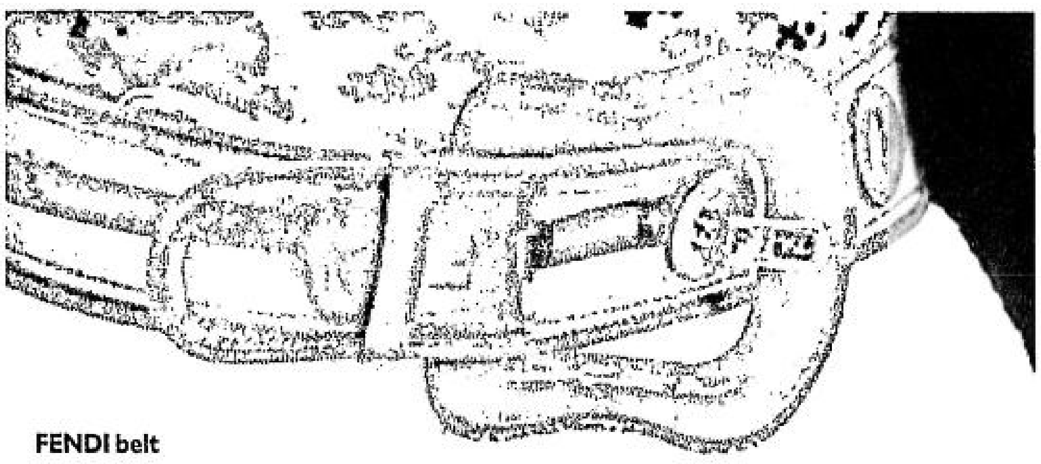
Hooray! The waist is back



FENDI belt

Good riddance to the low-rise. Now the belt is back where it rightfully belongs

IF YOU HAD BEEN OBSERVANT enough, you'd notice that not only are belts back, but also—and this is the good news—that they are going up, up to where they rightfully belong—the waist!

It's as if the low-rise—where everything starts at the hips, from jeans to skirts—has been with us forever you thought it would never end. While these hip-huggers showcase new erogenous zones, namely the hips and derriere, they also, unfortunately, display your disaster zone—the "bilbil," and it's a rare woman, in her mid-twenties and up, who doesn't have one. It's pretty uncomfortable to feel your flab hanging out of your hip belt, and it doesn't look good as well.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

I actually hear some women shopping for clothes complain that they can't find anything other than low-rise.

Now, however, the emphasis is going back to the waist again. You can wear belts—from wafer-thin ones to wide obis—to cinch your waist. Of course, the wide belts do a better job of holding your flab in place.

So it's all right, now you can let your belt rest on your waist, not on your hips.

Jullie's scent and sensuality

Over dinner the other night with Jullie Yap Daza and new bride (for the third time) Becky Garcia, I learned something. Jullie had a, uh, scientific explanation why women like Becky are unfailingly attractive to men. "You have pheromone!" Jullie told Becky.

"Mone what?" I asked. Jullie had to spell the word out.

Jullie explained pheromone is the scent a woman naturally has. Some women have it stronger than others, she added. It's like what animals have for their mating call. Some chemistry.

Jullie added that she just spotted in Psychology Today an ad for a "pheromone scent" selling for US$35. Now that must be some fragrance niche.

We also learned that Jullie is working on a novel—her fictive rendition of contemporary history. She's done several chapters already.

Jullie doing a roman à clef of Philippine "contemporary history" is really something to look forward to—or to dread. Remember, one of her bestsellers was "Etiquette for Mistresses." This will be Jullie's second publication of fiction, the first being "Jullie Daza's Love Stories" many years ago.

Ambassadors' Wimbledon

I feel bad (okay, ignore my wicked grin) for Ernie Lopez, PJ Enriquez, Philip Cu-unjieng, and other guys out there who rooted, shot after shot, for Rafael Nadal in the Wimbledon championship. Roger Federer beat the 20-year-old livewire from Spain—and saved some women I know from cardiac arrest/depression—such as my Palms' tennis mates Thelma Oribello, Pilut Montes and Mongsie Wulf.

There was another life on this planet that weekend, aside from the World Cup—Wimbledon. Federer-Nadal final was tennis at its punishing best: a game of physical and mental agility. While other sports rely on head-butting, tennis is the mind's command over muscle. It is character endurance to the finish. No team to rely on; just you and your will to prevail.

British Ambassador Peter Beckingham had a swell idea as Wimbledon reeled off: Hold a Wimbledon Celebrity Games right at the Ambassador's residence in Forbes Park.

What made it so interesting was he had a special guest, American Ambassador Kristie Kenney, a tennis buff.

There was a medium-to-heavy downpour afternoon of June 28—yes, so Wimbledon—but that didn't stop us from heading for the diplomat's residence. Of course, up to the last minute, I was muttering some mantra for the rain not to stop so I could have an excuse not to play.

But no such luck; the synthetic grass court dried fast and the games went according to schedule.

Ambassador Beckingham and former national player Jennifer Saret were up against Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Angelo Reyes and Roland So. Then it was the turn of Ambassador Kenney with Derrick Santos, against Rep. Monico Puentevella and Antonio Payumo.

It was fun. It was obvious that the two top diplomats are good tennis players—wily and smart.

Ambassador Kenney said she never had the time to play tennis since she moved here, until Ambassador Beckingham invited her over. The ambassador's wife, Jill, also plays tennis.

Kenney grew up in Washington DC playing the game because her dad was into tennis. She loves doubles but swears she loses her shots once the game starts. "My husband says

HOORAY!/D2

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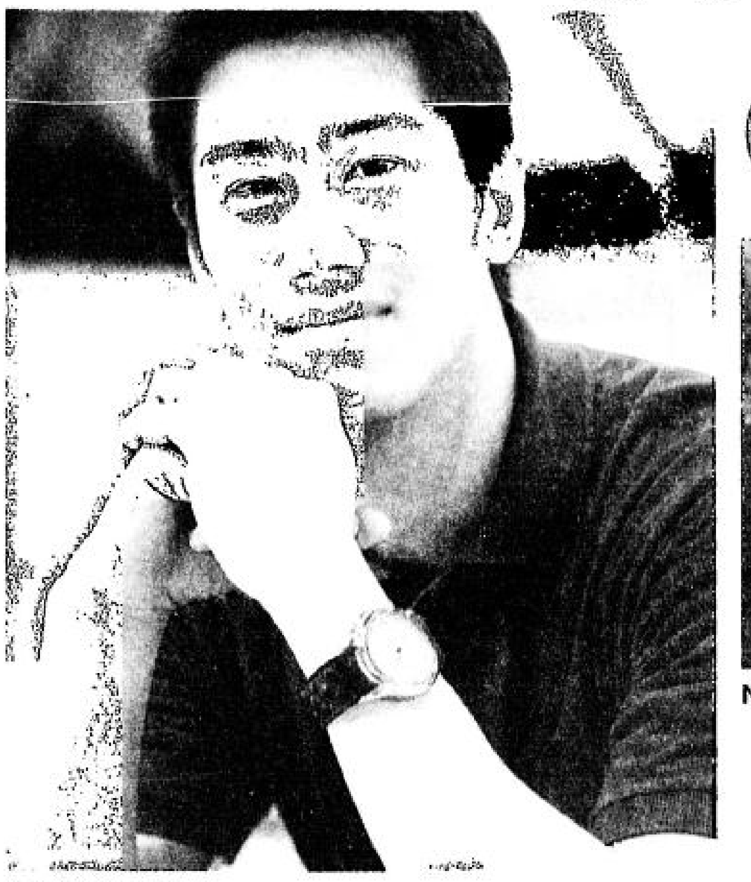
WESLEY Gonzales

RANDY Ortiz

MAURICE Arcache

PRECY Ejercito

GILBERT Remulla

OFFICINA DEL TEMPO HAS a new line of trendy yet functional timepieces that depict its rich European heritage.

Established in Ancona, Italy, at the turn of the century, Officina Del Tempo fuses art and technology as it draws from Moroccan-inspired themes melded with modern elements.

Functional yet aesthetic, Officina's vibrantly colored silicone-gel straps are anti-allergic, heat-tolerant and do not harden in contact with acid solutions, such as sweat from the wrist.

With designs ranging from classic to sporty, the Officina Del Tempo collection consists of the Safi, Agadir, Marrakech 2 and Tonneau product lines.

The brand drew stellar reviews in the Basel World Watch and Jewelry Show, and has since penetrated the US, European and Asian markets.

Making its debut in the Philippine market this year, Officina Del Tempo celebrity endorsers include society columnist Maurice Arcache, fashion designer Randy Ortiz, Rep. Gilbert Remulla, basketball star Wesley Gonzales, director Lauren Dyogi, fashion designer Kate Torralba, chef Reggie Aspiras, homemaker and businesswoman Precy Ejercito, and entrepreneur Mark Villar.

Behind the success of ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Big Brother" is top television director Lauren Dyogi.

"It's inevitable that I get influenced by the show biz world as far as my tastes for fashion and style," Dyogi said. "But in the end, I'd still rather pick stuff that outlast trends and are easy to mix and match—just like Officina Del Tempo watch. I can wear it with slacks or look rugged if I want to. Its mixture of blues and browns makes it easier to match with my outfits."

Cool dad

Remulla also used to work as reporter, writer and anchor for ABS-CBN's news and current affairs division.

As a member of the House of Representatives, Remulla finds more pride and purpose in raising his two daughters.

The legislator said his fashion sense veers toward the conservative and the functional. "I enjoy finely crafted things, such as good shoes, a nice suit, a pair of pants that fit me well," he said.

Remulla swears by the classy yet cutting-edge appeal of Officina Del Tempo watch. "Beyond its sleek looks and functional elegance, it allows me the luxury of being the master of my own time," he said.

Gonzales, the 25-year-old Ateneo alumnus, started playing in the PBL in 1999, two years after a fruitful start in the UAAP. From there, he rose to the pro ranks when he joined the PBA's FedEx/Air21 team.

Like most jocks leading an active lifestyle, Gonzales' normal workday is typically crammed with rigorous workouts and hardcourt drills. A stickler for effective time management, he prides himself for his strict, spartan discipline on- and off-court.

"I don't really live by the clock," the athlete said, "but I don't think I can live without a watch like Officina Del Tempo. It's classic yet sporty at the same time. It matches my casual fashion sense and it's something I can wear anytime, any day."

It was only inevitable that the little girl who used to love dressing up in dainty frocks would eventually grow up to be a famous fashion designer someday. And judging from word-of-mouth accolades from the fashion literati and an ever-growing roster of prestigious clients (including Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Lucy Torres-Gomez and Kris Aquino), Kate Torralba has definitely arrived.

Forever bursting with fresh and radical creations, Kate complements her funky ensemble with the right accessories. "Looking through the Officina Del Tempo catalog, I can definitely sense that very young vibe," she said. "Looks-wise, the details are very interesting, such as the stingray leather straps and the diamond-studded tops. They give you just the right touch of character to stand out from the crowd."

Cool cook

For a chef, nothing beats the ultimate joy out of bringing happiness into people's homes—and that's what Reggie Aspiras has been doing all throughout her life.

Always eager to share her knowledge, Reggie has been teaching cooking for 12 years. "I've been running my school (the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts located at Bon Apetit, Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City) for seven years, worked for the US government, San Miguel and some of the best places that one can just dream of working for," she said.

"There are watches that you don't want to wear because you're worried that you might ruin them," Reggie said. "But this particular watch is wonderful because you can wear it and not worry about it. In other words, you're not a victim to your watch, and that's what life's all about."

Precy Ejercito has spearheaded various civic projects that have helped the poor and the handicapped.

Married to Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Ejercito also owns and runs the Manila Jockey Club, a newly opened watering hole in the bustling Ortigas commercial area.

A woman of modest tastes, Ejercito said her style is simple and practical.

KATE Torralba

An avid watch enthusiast, Ejercito gushes about her new find: the Italian-made Officina Del Tempo line. "They're classy yet sporty as well," she said. "I like big-faced watches, and most of the Officina Del Tempo watches have that feature. They also have very sleek and elegant straps and funky trimmings."

Cool merchant

A self-made entrepreneur, Mark Villar takes pride in his most recent achievement: the recently opened Finds Superstore at Starmall Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

The superstore comes close on the heels of Villar's earlier venture, the Metro Home Depot with branches in Las Piñas and Alabang.

Villar said he is wary of "metrosexual fashion." "I prefer more basic, functional styles and colors," he said. "I like to look sharp, but not too trendy."

Villar likes Officina Del Tempo's Chronogel model. "Like my style, it's edgy but still classic," he said.

Maurice Arcache's column makes for a delightful read.

His peculiarly offbeat style, spiced up with multilingual colloquialisms, has even landed him in the pages of the prestigious New York Herald, saying: "... a new age in journalism was born, with Maurice Arcache's adjectives and phrases in his widely read popular column, with words that include Spanish, French and a word from the dialect of a southern island in the Philippines."

Arcache exudes the savvy and confidence of a true-blue aristocrat. His fashion sense borders on the classic and trendy.

"For accessories, I go mad about watches," he said. "A good chic or casual watch such as Officina Del Tempo's Tonneau Chrono, paired with real comfy elegant shoes."

Considered as a fashion innovator, Randy Ortiz is known for his mixture of prints and colors offering a refreshing alternative to the typical Filipino male's conservative closet.

The designer describes his style as "modern but always restrained and classic, minimalist, uncluttered and forever young."

His taste for clothes and accessories is toward the functional and timelessly classic.

"I'm having a great time with my new Officina Del Tempo's Agadir Chrono Gel," Randy said. "It's very sporty and functional for everyday use. Definitely a fashion statement I can call my own."

Officina Del Tempo collection is available at Rafael Jewellery, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 6363399; Rafael Jewellery, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, 8138501; My Diamond, Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, Makati City, 7571086; My Diamond, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, QC, 9124013; and My Tempo, SM North Edsa, QC, 9277620.

finds
superst
MARK Villar

Ana Dugang
Dr. Divina Esteban
Dr. Romulo De Villa

NOURISH YOUR HEART TO HEALTH

Dr. Ludgerio Torres, Cardio Surgeon; Medical Director of the Philippine Heart Center

Cardiovascular disease is now the no.1 killer disease. This is due to the intake of fast food and junk food and a sedentary lifestyle. Salty and high cholesterol food as well as overeating should be avoided.

Nutrition is very important in surgery. Surgical patients have to be nutritionally prepared because they undergo several days without food intake. Keeping them adequately nourished prior to surgery helps prevent complications and improve wound healing.

Nutritional drinks are important because the patients don't just need carbohydrates, fats and protein; but they also need vitamins, minerals and trace elements.

Dr. Luisito Llido, Surgeon; Head, Clinical Nutrition Center, St. Luke's Medical Center

Awareness of the value of nutrition is very low. It's the last item considered in the management of patients, which should not be the case. Treating a patient without nutrition is like running a car without a gasoline. The gasoline is nutrition. Without it, healing is slow and the patient is more prone to infections. You also expect increased morbidities, mortality, poorer quality of life, and more expenses for our patients. Nutrition enhances recovery, hastens healing and lessens complications by optimizing the body's metabolism. Studies show a mortality rate reduction of 50% among critically ill patients through nutrition support.

Dr. Divina Esteban, Medical Oncologist; President of the Philippine Society of Oncology, Inc.

Lifestyle factors which include an unhealthy diet and exposure to carcinogens like smoking, radiation and viruses have made cancer more prevalent than it was years ago.

Nutrition and cancer go together. A patient who is inadequately nourished responds poorly to cancer treatments. Studies also show that if you feed the cancer patient, you also feed the cancer cells. Cancer patients must take food that has less sugar and more lipids so that you don't feed the cancer cells. Patients must have a balanced diet which is rich in fruits, vegetables and fiber. They must also eat less red meat and more fish. Nutritional supplements also improve a patient's well-being as well as his health.

Dr. Romulo De Villa, Nutrition Oncologist; Founding President, Molecular Oncology Society of the Philippines; Board of Directors, Philippine Society of Oncology, Inc.

Cancer always involves nutrition. The entry point of chemicals which damage the body and cause cancer, is through the mouth.

Studies involving cancer and nutrition have shown that a combination of spinach (the Nutrient Lipoic acid found in spinach) and vitamin C kills cancer cells. Recent studies on Fiber show that it can control the entry of sugars into the blood. Sugar feeds cancer cells. Therefore, if you want to control the feeding of cancer cells, you must have enough fiber in your diet. A study on another kind of Fiber - FOS or Fructooligosacharides show that it nourishes good bacteria in our intestines. Good bacteria strengthens our immune system.

Aside from proper nutrition, adult nutritional drinks are crucial to the recovery of patients. They must be added to the regular diet because regular diet alone is not sufficient for a complete and balanced nutrition.

EXPERT ADVICE

To find out more about the importance of nutrition, A
endocrinologists, surgeons, oncologists and dietician
their respective fi

Abbott Celebrates Nutrition Month

Activities in the top 80 hospitals nationwide

- Expand Your Knowledge : "Examine the clinical, financial and emotional effects of malnutrition." - A scientific lecture for doctors and dieticians
- Listen and Learn : Attend a lecture on the importance of nutrition and how it can change your life - A Lay Fora for consumers.
- Free Sample : Drink to your health with free Ensure and Glucerna samples.
- Free Consultations : Drop by our Nutrition & Wellness counters in hospital lobbies and avail of the following services :

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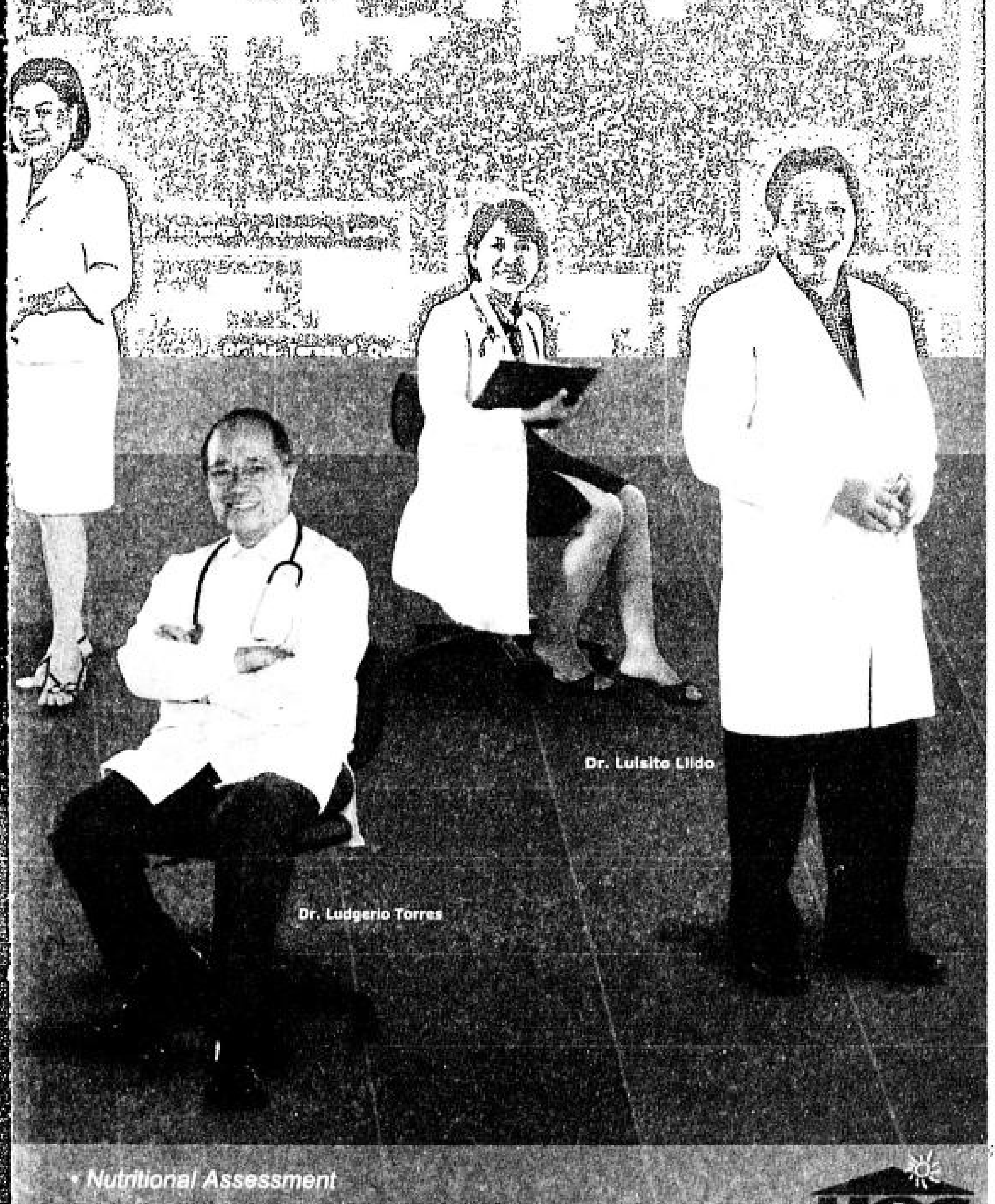

EATING WELL DESPITE DIABETES

Dr. Fernando Lopez, Surgeon; President, Philippine College of Surgeons (2003); Executive Director, Philippine Board of Surgery

Nutrition is considered very important to surgery. Numerous scientific researches have been conducted regarding nutrition and the important role it plays among cancer patients undergoing treatment – be it surgical, medical or radiological. The surgical outcomes of major operations depend, to a large extent, on the nutritional status of our patients before, during and after surgery.

Surgical malnutrition is mostly surgeon-induced. Patients are often kept without food days before surgery and maintained without food many more days after surgery. Ideally, we should keep our patients without food at the shortest possible time before surgery and fed as early as possible after surgery provided no contraindication exists.

Nutritional drinks hasten the recovery of patients after major operations, particularly for cancer. Usually, patients do not have an appetite for food in the immediate post-operative days, thus, we rely on nutritional supplements to augment their caloric requirements.

Dr. Ma. Teresa P. Que, Endocrinologist; President, Philippine Diabetes Association

An understanding of basic nutrition information is very important for both the diabetic and the non-diabetic. In these modern times, many people have adopted a high sugar, high saturated fat, low fiber diet and this state of poor nutrition has led to the great increase in diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer among the population.

Everyone should adopt a healthy lifestyle by eating at least 3-5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day, exercising regularly, maintaining ideal body weight, de-stressing regularly and not smoking. Diabetics who cannot eat their required share of fruits, vegetables and fiber daily can add complete and balanced nutritional drinks during snack time or as a meal replacement if missed meals are unavoidable due to various life activities.

Dr. Estrellita V. Fernando - Lopez; Vice-President, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, Philippine Chapter

Nutrition is very important because diabetic patients need to be highly motivated to follow the diet required of them. A recent study has shown that an adequate amount of monounsaturated fatty acids may be given to diabetic patients as the main provider of their fat requirement. This helps patients improve their blood glucose control. Fiber should also be amply supplied in the diet to increase satiety and to improve glycemic control by helping control post-prandial peaks. Eating foods with low glycemic index is likewise advised.

A diabetic's special nutritional requirement likewise includes a readily available source of energy specially when they are away from home. This can be provided by nutritional drinks. This solves the problem of having to prepare a special diet for the diabetic and another type of food for the other members of the family.

Ana Dugang, Chief Dietician, Makati Medical Center

The incidence of heart disease and diabetes are more prevalent now than several years ago. These may be attributed to the quality of food being served. With the occurrence of convenience food and fast food, a lot of people are not aware that excessive consumption of this kind of food will eventually lead to weight gain which results in obesity, hypertension and diabetes.

All this chronic degenerative diseases will lead to malnutrition if not treated properly. Since one side effect of cancer treatment (such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy) is a loss of appetite, the patients' sense of taste and the ability to swallow their food is diminished. In the process, they begin to lose weight. Small frequent meals are advised since they can only consume so much. Giving patients oral nutritional drinks will also help increase their energy. A high dosage of these drinks will help in getting the sufficient amount of nutrients because it already contains the required amounts of calories, vitamins and minerals needed for faster recovery.

- Nutritional Assessment
- Nutritional Counseling
- Blood Pressure & Glucose Screening
- Manned by a registered nutritionist dietician

Diabetes Awareness Campaign

Sure Savings : Grab your discount coupons for Ensure and redeem them at any Mercury Drug outlet nationwide.

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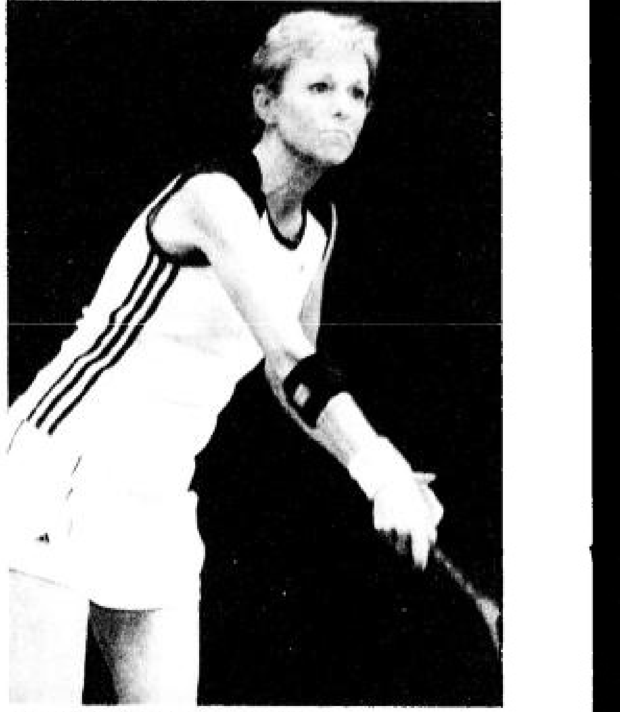


US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney

Hooray! The waist is back

From page D1

I do well until the score begins," she told us.

Asked if she plays golf like all the other diplomats, Ambassador Kenney said, "Play is a very strong word to use." There you go! So tennis it is.

We were joined by MIA assistant general manager for security Angel Atutubo, BusinessWorld's Vergel Santos, and tennis pros Francis Alcantara, Andrew Maglipon, Martin Misa, Jun Toledo, and from the UK Embassy—John Chick, Sarah Hulton, Emma Leister, Darwin Mariano, Liza Manahan and Tony Hulton who served as umpire. Dunlop Slazenger led by Danny Jugno and Cecil Valimento-Reyes was sponsor.

Guess who the ballboys were? Students from British School who looked so spiffy in their shirts and shorts, just like Wimbledon.

Marcos portrait

About the Ferdinand Marcos portrait by Claudio Bravo (June 22 column) that allegedly had been "abandoned" at Malacañang after the Marcoses fled in 1986, Malacañang Presidential Museum curator Edgar Ryan S. Faustino wrote to say that the portrait is still there.

"Far from being abandoned, it is on display in the Presidential Museum in Kalayaan Hall," Faustino said. "It is, perhaps, the most publicly accessible Bravo portrait in the country today. As our visitors say, the portrait, even after being done more than 30 years ago, is 'buhay na buhay,' a testament to the great skill of the painter."

BRITISH Ambassador Peter Beckingham

Partnership launched

RAY-BAN, THE WORLD'S No. 1 EYEWEAR, launched its partnership with Race Fans Inc. and Slipstream at the SM Mall of Asia.

The event, which started with a motorcade, featured the unveiling of George Optical's new store. Cocktails were served at the Blue Room.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of Ray-Ban's Magic 8, composed of students from Miriam College who performed a belly dance.

The new Ray-Ban and Slipstream partnership will be showcased at the Philippine Touring Car Championships in Subic and Batangas aired at 12 noon, Sundays, on Studio 23.

SLIPSTREAM'S TV host Dominic Uy

DJ TRAVIS Monsod

Get a computer through 'Own a PC Deal'

GOINGS ON

YOU CAN GET YOUR CHILD A NEW PERSONAL computer and an easy-access DSL connection with Digitel and Banco de Oro's "Own a PC" deal. With a monthly payment of as low as P2,145 through the BDO Superlite Personal loan, you can get an Intel Pentium 4 2.66Hz processor, with 256MB DDR Memory, 40GB hard disk and a 128 kbps NetVantage subscription, Digitel's DSL service. In addition, you can get up to 80-percent discount on the NetVantage connection fee, free comprehensive Family Accident Insurance up to P300,000 and free PC insurance, among others. Visit a Digitel Customer Center or call 171-0, through your Digitel phone.

NATIONAL CONGRESS. Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls, an Apostolate of the Monfort Foundation. Inc., will hold its third National Congress and 14th Foundation Day 8 a.m.-5 p.m., July 29, at the gymnasium of San Juan Elementary School, N. Domingo St., San Juan. The celebration will include a thanksgiving Mass, lunch fellowship and Family Bingo Social. Call 5310394/2157, PWHS hotline, or text 0918-9290603.

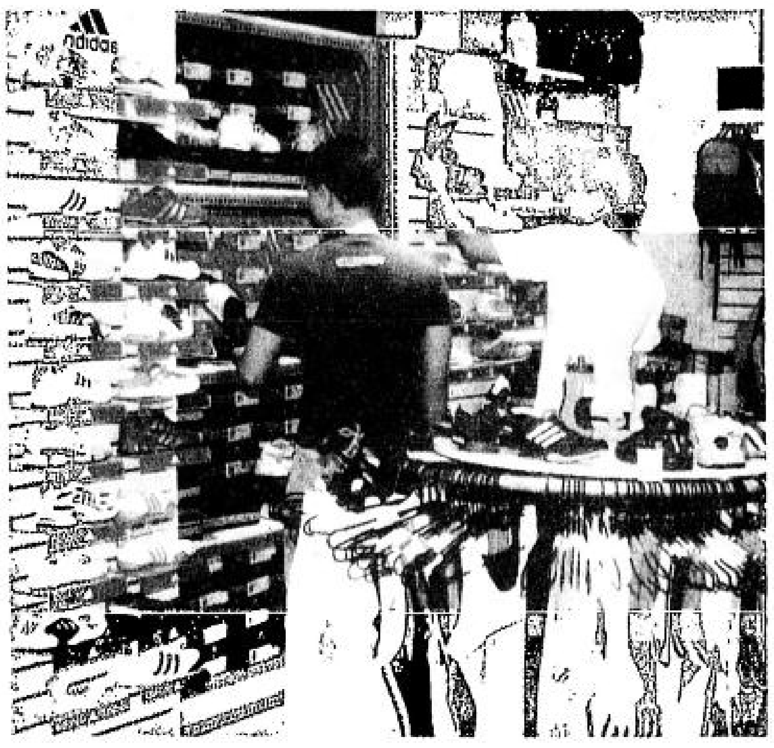
BIG DISCOUNT. Robinsons Place Novaliches marks its fifth anniversary this month by offering shoppers up to 50-percent discount on selected items. The "All-Out Blowout Three-Day Anniversary Sale" will be held July 28-30. Special shows at the Activity Area will feature various celebrities like True Faith at 5 p.m., July 28; and "Starstruck" Batch 3 winners Jackie Rice at 4 p.m., July 29, and Mark Cielo, at 4 p.m., July 30.

DRAWING CONTEST. The launching of the "Europe Ko To" drawing contest and "A Celebration of Mozart's Music" highlighted the recent celebration of Europe Month at the Podium. The drawing contest, with the theme "Europe Ko To: The European Union in the Eyes of the Filipino Youth," is open to all Filipino students in Metro Manila. The contest has two categories: Crayola or Craypas for Grades 5-7 students; and watercolor for third- and fourth-year high-school students. All entries must be submitted to the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, 10/F, RCBC Plaza, Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati. Deadline for submission of entries is 12 noon, Aug.4. All winning entries will be exhibited at the Podium.

REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT. To all REC alumnae of St. Scholastica's College High School, please be advised that the Grand Reunion has been moved to Aug. 18, Friday (instead of today). "Bente Sa Ciento: The REC Grand Reunion" will still be held 5-9 p.m. at the Sr. Kuniberta Hall (formerly the school gym). Call Yasi Rodriguez at 5247686 local 370 or 0917-9164725. Join the REC yahoogroup by sending an empty message to ssc_rec-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

WORKSHOP. Modelo Pilipinas presents "Transition 9," a theater/commercial acting and basic modeling workshop July 22-Sept. 10, at Harmony Bar and Restaurant, 13 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan. Enrollment is ongoing. Call 7225651, 7231769 or 7262392.

FESTIVAL. Davao City celebrates the 21st Kadayawan sa Dabaw Festival, Aug 14-20. Among the activities lined up are Tabo-Agro-Industrial Fair, Kaan Dawet-Food Street Fiesta, Pasasalamat, Hudyaka, Music Festival, Floral Float Parade. Call Kadayawan sa Davao Foundation Inc. at (082)2246319 or Tourism Operations Office at (082)2221956.



NEW BARGAIN DESTINATION IN SANTA ROSA
Discounted sport product lines are available at Greenfield Development Corp.'s Paseo de Santa Rosa, which is merely 45 minutes away from Metro Manila. Paseo de Santa Rosa is the country's first outlet supercenter that offers new items at considerably lower prices, only months after their shelf debut in Metro Manila. Popular brands such as Nike, Adidas, Dunlop, Speedo, AND1 and New Balance are available at the Paseo. Food outlets include Poquito Mas, Café Breton, Kanin Club, Tropicali and Eli Simon. More sport shops and other outlets will be available when Paseo 3 opens. Call 4208003 or (049) 5412845. Visit www.greenfield.com.ph

SEMINARS. CFS Creative Training Management is offering the following seminars: "Warehouse Management" (9 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 5); "Purchasing Management" (9 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 11); and "Basic Bookkeeping" (9 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 12). Call 8697960, 8232358, 8234825.

SEMINAR. The British Council is holding its annual "Welcome to the UK" seminar 1:30-5:30 p.m., July 29, at the Amorsolo Grand Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Galleria. The seminar provides practical tips on living and studying in the United Kingdom. Seminar registration fee is P300. Visit to www.britishcouncil.org.ph or call 9141011 to 14.

PROMO. You can win P1 million instantly or in a grand raffle with Citibank's Match & Win promotion until July 31. Just use your Citibank credit card to pay for purchases. Every credit card purchase worth at least P1,000 has two ways to win. You can get instant cash when your Citibank credit-card number matches the transaction approval code on your sales slip. The code is also entered in the grand raffle draw. To win instant cash, three to six digits in the transaction approval code should match numbers in your Citibank credit card. Prizes range from P100-P1 million. For the grand raffle, send by text message the last 10 digits of your Citibank credit card number and the six-digit approval code on your sales slip to 29768. Grand prize is P1 million. Match & Win is open to all Citibank principal and supplementary cardholders.

WEEKEND SALE. Shopwise Alabang holds the Big 1 sale 10 am-9 pm, July 21-23. Located at the Carousel Court, Festival Supermall, Alabang, the hypermarket is giving up to 70-percent discount on selected products. The first 1,000 customers on the Big 1 weekend sale can win gift certificates worth up to P50,000. The event will also feature the Fairground band 4-6 pm.

BUSINESS SEMINARS. Businessmaker Academy will hold a series of business seminars in August. Topics include "How to Make a Fortune in Online Forex Trading," Aug.4, and "Step by Step Guide to Business Ownership." Call 6874445, 4645/3416; or visit www.businessmaker-academy.com

SPECIAL PROMO. Enchanted Kingdom presents "Rainy Day Promo." Until Aug. 14, the park will give free return tickets to people who visit. The tickets are valid two weeks from the date of the visit. Visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

MALL SALE. Shangri-La Plaza is offering as much as 75-percent discount on selected items during its season-ender sale that ends July 31. The mall-wide sale also features "Shop, Pick & Win" that lets shoppers pick and win instant prizes. A state-of-the-art entertainment showcase can be won on the grand draw at 6 p.m., Aug. 5, Grand Atrium. For a minimum single-receipt, same-day purchase of P2,500 shoppers get a raffle coupon plus a chance to pick instant prizes. Call 6337851 to 70.

FUN ACTIVITIES. Starland Themepark and Resort at 4/L, Metropolis Star Alabang, offers fun activities for kids. At 4 p.m., July 23, there will be a Clay Molding Workshop at 4/L, Starland Activity area. The "Singing Star 2006 Showdown" will be held 4 p.m., July 30. Call 8504752.

REUNION. Class 1967 of the Masbate High School (now Masbate National Comprehensive High School) will have a 40th anniversary reunion May 19-20, 2007. Members of Class '67 may call or text Marina (Verano) Merioles, 0910-3595261; and Evelyn (Martires) Udaundo, 0928-3561480 or 4543934.

Whenever you flush, the air inside the toilet shoots up by several feet.

This means that odor-causing bacteria are floating above, and around you, long after you use the toilet.

Aside from bathrooms, odor-causing bacteria usually float around laundry rooms, garbage areas and pet areas. Since they're in the air, they simply can't be washed or scrubbed away. To fight these microorganisms in the air, you need BayFresh Air Sanitizer. With its revolutionary T.E.G. formula, BayFresh Air Sanitizer eliminates foul odors and musty smells at the source! Keep the air you breathe at home smelling fresh and clean. Kill odor-causing bacteria with BayFresh Air Sanitizer.

BayFresh Air Sanitizer. Cleans the air you breathe.

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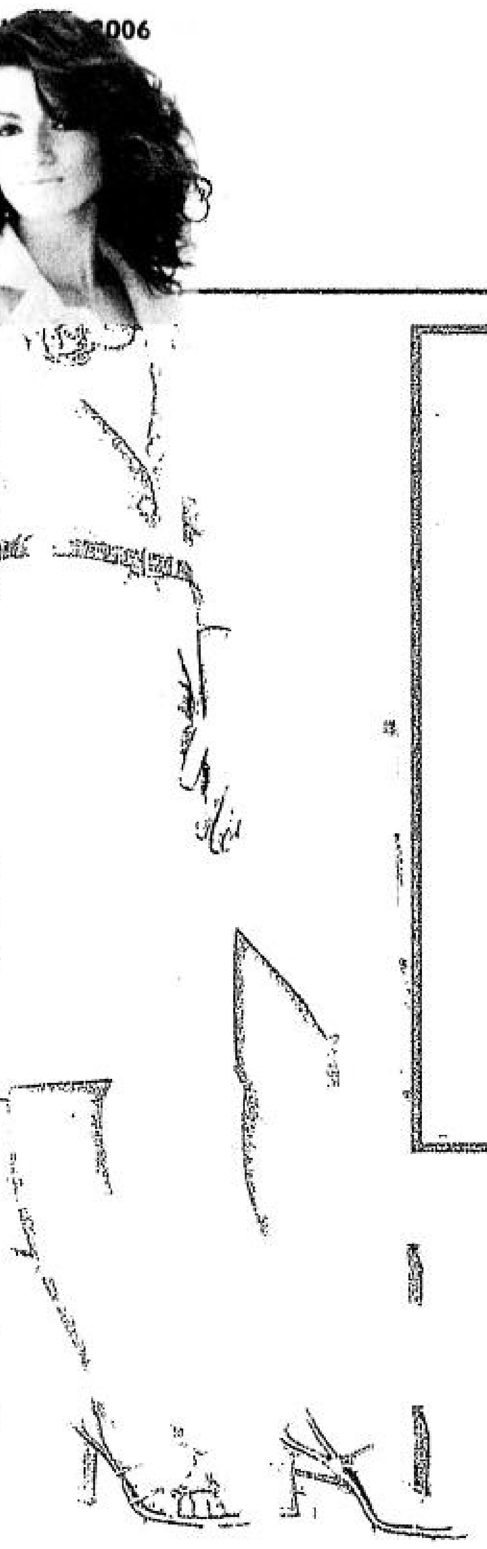
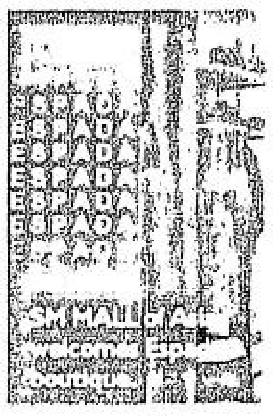
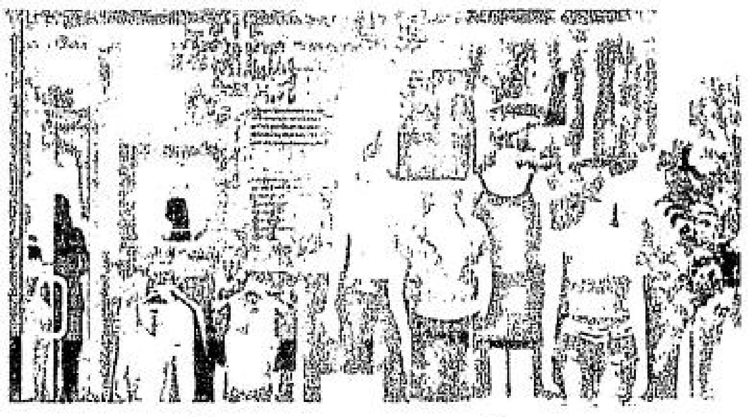


CAREER wear for the confident Espada woman

KNIT and lace make a neat fashion statement.





Thai fashion house invades Manila

ONE OF THE top fashion brands in Thailand is now in Manila and until July 31, the upbeat brand is holding its mid-year sale with up to 50-percent off on selected items.

Known for its attention to details and high standards of quality, Ep Espada offers a wide variety of work and weekend wear for the modern woman.

The collection offers stylish designs and sophisticated silhouettes that easily appeal to young and hip students, career-driven professionals, and high-powered executives alike. The merchandise mix includes women blouses, knit tops, skirts, pants, jackets and accessories.

Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Corporate Apparel, Inc., Ep Espada is now available at Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower Shangri-La Plaza, and Rustan's Alabang Town Center; and has boutiques at SM Mall of Asia, SM Clark Pampanga, SM Sucat Annex; and soon to open at SM North Edsa Annex 3 (the Block).

Spotless and Blemish-Free Skin

A Blemish Eraser That Really *Works!*

Picture-perfect skin can now be a reality with IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. No other procedure has ever been developed that can accomplish so much with so little risk and downtime.

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots and spider veins without a trace. Jeweler Jenny Icasas is one satisfied client. She narrates: " I had clear skin, but I had reddish spider veins on my face and some pigmentation on my cheeks. They weren't freckles, but they just seemed like a dark shadow. IPL removed my spider veins and lightened my brown spots."

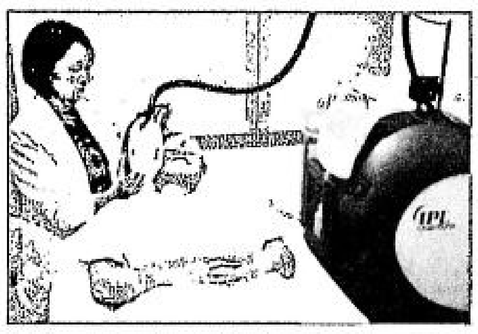
Jenny Icasas

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions and skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of aging, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes.

Jenny happily recalls her IPL experience: "It was about my 3rd treatment when I noticed a change. After IPL...wow, I became flawless! My pores became smaller and hardly even visible. Friends would ask, 'How did your skin get so smooth and even?' and I tell them I got IPL. The funny thing is, some of them have tried IPL with other dermatologists but didn't get results like mine. I don't know if there's a difference in the intensity they use, but my friends definitely noticed that the IPL at Facial Care Centre gave me actual, visible results."

Carmi Martin

Another fan of IPL is actress/interior design consultant Carmi Martin. She happily relates: "I used to have an uneven skin tone because of pigmentation and freckles. After IPL, my skin became even! In the past I'd always have to wear make-up because I was afraid to let people see me without it. Now, since I love going to Boracay, I can enjoy the sun and sea make-up free!"



Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL simultaneously treats a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional treatments.

Actress Dawn Zulueta is all praises for this blemish eraser as well. "My problem has always been the eruption of acne," she reveals. "Since my skin is oily, I became prone to it. When I started doing IPL, I noticed that my pores got smaller and I stopped getting breakouts as early as the 3rd treatment! Over time, my skin was looking clearer, and complexion-wise, so much better. Before, I couldn't leave the house without putting on some concealer on my blemishes. Now I can go out with only sunblock! I'm confident enough even without make-up because I know my skin is clear and even."

Jenny, Carmi and Dawn are only three of many satisfied clients who have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles and other skin discolorations. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Dawn Zulueta

Now isn't this the best news for your skin?

To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN. That's 892-7546.

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A GREAT SHOT EVERY TIME

Promo is extended until August 15, 2006. As Approved by DTI-NCR.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0820, Series of 2006.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
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PictBridge
POWERED BY DiG!C II

AYET Evangelista and fashion designer Kate Torralba

MODEL Cristina Garcia and Century Tuna image model Will Devaughn

FUENTES Publicity Network's Edd Fuentes and Red Cornejo

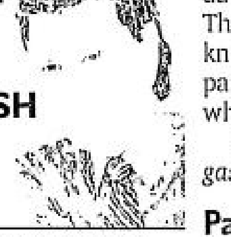
FOREVER in love. Elbert and Liza Cuenca

MOI, Century Tuna Lite model Maike Evers and Pepper Teehankee

CENTURY Tuna young achiever Leo Po

A perfect day for tuna fish

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

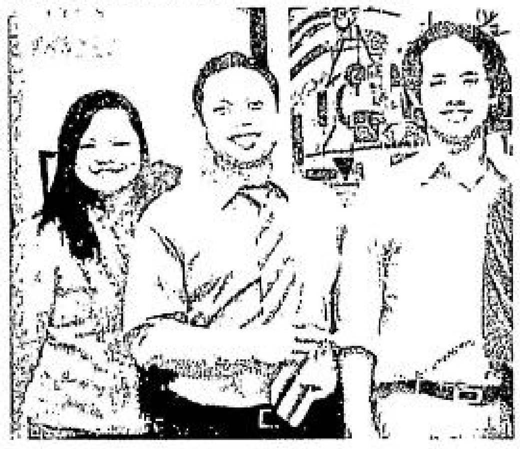
THE STARS of the fab fundraising event. Breast cancer survivor Toni Abad and talented artist Manny Padilla

FORMER actress Lilia Dizon, mother of Toni Abad; Tessie Briones and Tereret Liboro

AMBASSADOR Gion Gounet

MIGUEL de Leon, Diana Jean Lopez and the artist's wife, Mia Tambunting Padilla

ART follower Olivia Montinola Romulo


TANYA Deakin, Stevie Tambunting and Mike Chan

AWARD-WINNING actor Ricky Davao

TOP ARTIST and stylist Mike Sandoval with our very own, ace photographer Alex Van Hagen

RENE Robles and Sen. Jamby Madrigal

CENTURY TUNA IS DEFINITELY ON A ROLL, *palanggas*. First we had the smashingly successful Century Tuna event in Boracay, and now the fish in a tin that is absolutely healthy for all celebrated another fab evening of excellent food, fitness and fashion. This was during the launching of the new Century Tuna Lite at M Café in Greenbelt, dahlings.

Superbly hosted by beautiful model **Bianca Valerio** (who had just breezed in from Cannes as the Philippine representative of Mouton Cadet), "A Night of Pure Delite" gathered several personalities to celebrate the healthy and light lifestyle.

It was great chatting with Century Tuna hotshot executives such as **Leo Po**, **Joseph Pineda** and **Ayet Evangelista**.

"We're very excited to launch the new Century Tuna Lite, your favorite tuna now made lighter and healthier. This new tuna variant was made with health buffs in mind, to keep them fit and active while at work or at play," said Evangelista.

Since I've bee a diehard follower of Century Tuna for eons, *moi* found out that this new Century Tuna Lite has 50 percent less fat and 50 percent less salt. It is also loaded with the heart-friendly Omega 3 to promote normal blood pressure, eliminate body fat deposits, and enhance ideal weight.

We then sampled the yummy, healthy goodness of Century Tuna Lite dishes excellently done by M Café's talented chef, **Sau del Rosario**.

The eye-catching light-and-white fashion show got on a roll with the latest collection of hot designer **Kate Torralba**. Century Tuna's awesome Superbods Beach Fest winners and the new product's gorgeous image models marched down the runway.

Serenading us was terrific new artist **Sitti**, who dished out cool, soothing, bossa nova rhythms, *palanggas*.

"A Night of Pure Delite" definitely inspired the invitees to live a healthier and lighter life through the fab Century Tuna Lite, natch.

Memo from workplace

Whether it's rain or shine, dahlings, it's definitely not a reason to be sloppy, style-wise, *palanggas*.

"With Memo, any yuppie is sure to look scorching and stylish yet relaxed and comfy at the workplace," said Memo brand manager **Louie Scott**.

Memo showed off its scorching "Wear It-Work It" 2006 collection at that hot resto, Uva!

While *moi* dug into the excellent salad and fish prepared by top chef **Fernando**, I noticed the well-cut, clean and crisp pieces on the fashion runway; they were focused on the casual, chic, relaxed corporate look.

Memo was inspired by the retro resort feel, so a lot of cotton knits, stripes, soft-wash linens and lightweight denims are present in this season's collection, *palanggas*.

The fashion brand has changed its tagline, from "Clothes that Work" to "Wear It-Work It."

Hosted by good-looking funnyman **Jojo Alejar**, Memo's 2006 collection launch also introduced three hotshot society shakers who are all diehard fans of the brand.

TV personality and youth leader **Bam Aquino** might have worked with the National Youth Commission before but that didn't mean he wore barong all the time in office. Instead, "I chose to dress more my age, injecting Memo pieces into my wardrobe, which fits my style and needs," said Bam, who looked cool and confident.

Good-looking **Jojo Mitra** has varied interests, business involvements, and fashion styles. With Memo, he always looks relaxed and presentable wherever he is, whether at a board meeting, at his call center business or at his farm.

Brilliant **Anna Marie Periquet** is yet another social figure who trusts Memo, especially because she's loaded with corporate involvements and social advocacies. Creative Anna Marie always has something to wear for any occasion.

Three different individuals, dahlings, one fashion brand. These stylish professionals know that Memo can accompany them anytime and anywhere.

Check Memo out, *palanggas*.

Padilla on exhibit

For years anybody in the know had known that man for all seasons, **Manuel "Manny" Padilla**, was a gifted artist.

Manny P. has finally agreed to hold his first solo exhibition, showcasing 29 awesome paintings in pastel and oil, *palanggas*.

Held at the Banquet Hall of Milky Way Building, the exhibit displayed M. Padilla's personal interpretation of sundry items such as cups, ceiling fans and lamps. *Moi* was amazed at Manny's talent for icons, which were set against a maze of striking colors, dahlings.

The exhibit brought out tons of Cosmo Manille's *alta sociedad*, plus loads of art lovers. After all, *palanggas*, this excellent exhibit was for the benefit of the breast cancer awareness initiatives of Essenses Foundation, "an organization that seeks to educate and to promote the wellness of women," explained pretty **Mia Tambunting Padilla**.

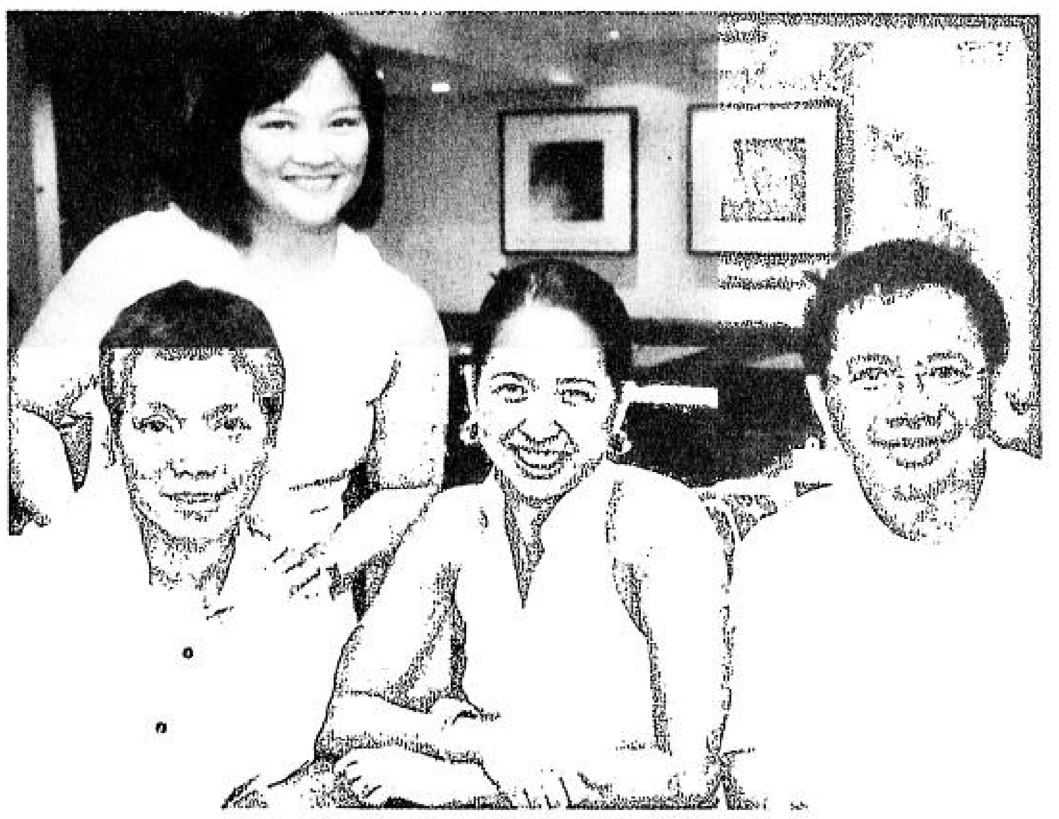
From the Essenses Foundation were Rustan's brilliant **Rhoda Campos** and **Bo Ramas Ros**, who breezed in with **Mervyn Cragg**; **Nick Santiris** and **George Xynogalas** from Tact Bath & Body.

The adorable Toni Abad, a breast cancer patient herself, gave a heartfelt speech on the challenges of the disease, which had us all almost in tears. We admired her courage to fight the Big C and her love for life.

She advised women "to have your regular breast examinations in order to detect the disease at its early stage."

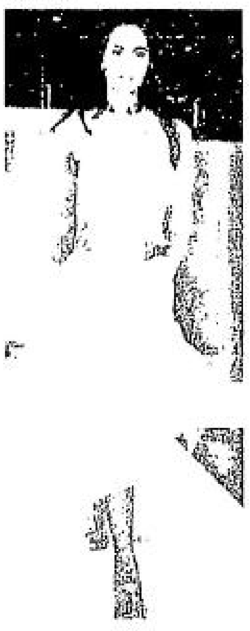
Supporting Toni all the way was her husband, handsome **Paolo Abad**; her mother, former top actress **Lilia Dizon**; her gorgeous sisters, **Pinky de Leon** and **Melissa de Leon-Joseph**; and her brother, one-of-a-kind actor **Christopher de Leon**.

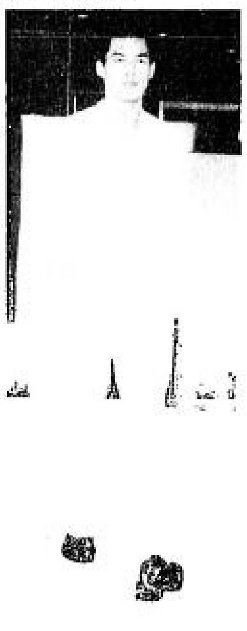
The top guest of honor was no less than United Nations Ambassador of Goodwill for the Visual Arts **Gion Gounet**; fashion plate **Gina Tambunting R.** and her husband **Pedro Roxas**; beautiful couple **Tweetie** and **Mon Gonzales**; **Lala Padilla**; **Rene Padilla**; **Trish Briones**; **Carmina Sanchez**; **Dely Ongsiako**; **Mila Puyat**; **Patrick Deakin**; Galeria Duemila's **Silvana Diaz**; Milky Way's **Malu Gamboa**; **Joey Ansaldo**; **Cristina Estrada**; my pal **Pepper Teehankee**; **Anton Gonzalez** and **Andre Lhuillier**, plus tons of other art lovers, *palanggas*.

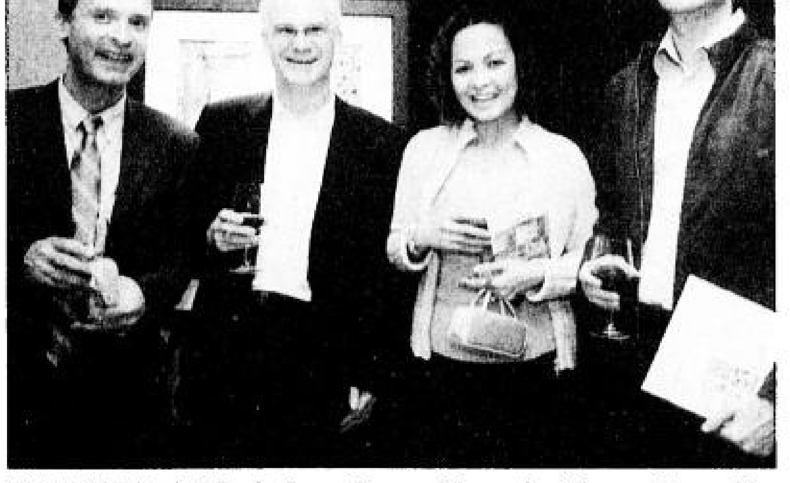

CENTURY Tuna's Ayet Evangelista, Socky Pitargue, Kat Gomez and Joseph Pineda

TOP model and host of the affair Bianca Valerio in Ferdie Abuel

PITARGUE, Comia & Villaruel Communications' Ariel Comia


MICHELLE Padua in Kate Torralba

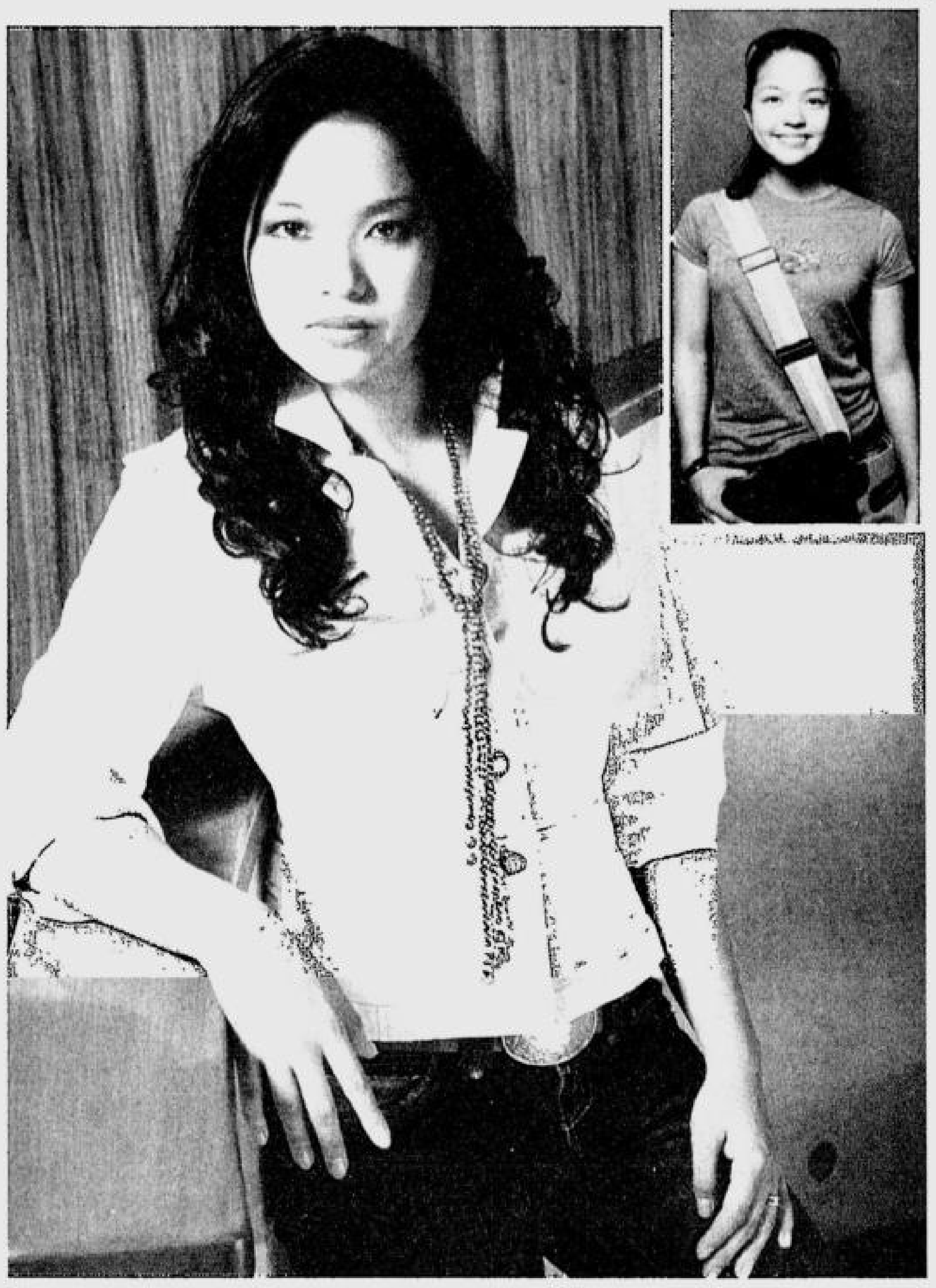

HANDSOME Jon Mullaly


THE TACT Bath & Body Gang. George Xynogalas, Mervyn Cragg, Bo Ros and Nick Santiris

ELLA Pangilinan and mom Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan

LAUNCH emcee, TV personality Jojo Alejar

HOTSHOTS wear Memo. Jojo Mitra, Memo's top-of-the-line brand manager Louie Scott, Anna Marie Periquet and Bam Aquino



GABY dela Merced (left), car racing champion, zooms from casual to chic with a cropped jacket from Kenneth Cole.

NADINE Samonte (right), teen actress, exudes romance in a white cowl neck Kenneth Cole top.

Fab femmes, thanks to a little makeover

WITH THE HELP OF STYLE CONsultant Rosario Herrera and Basement Salon's beauty experts led by Stefan Wilcynzski, Metrobank Femme Visa gave three women the experience of a glam makeover.

Racecar champion Gaby dela Merced, usually at home in scruffy race gear, fancies the ultra-feminine look after all. Basement's hair wizards gave her glamorous flowing curls—one of the biggest looks in Hollywood today. Casual turns into chic with a smart put-together piece of choice from Kenneth Cole and what can be more alluring than a soft fluid dress from Tango. Dramatic makeup frames Gaby's features and creates a regal finish to her otherwise unruly getup.

"How you present yourself affects how you feel inside" notes Gaby. On her makeover, she adds, "It's a bold yet simple look. I'm more a jeans-and-rubber-shoes gal. But I love this look. I could practically go from meetings to parties."

From humble beginnings, Nadine Samonte was discovered through GMA 7's "Starstruck" search, which opened the door on her path to superstardom. Despite her popularity, Nadine admits to prefer a more relaxed style statement. She smiles, "I really like my new look because it looks so natural. And I particularly like the fuss-free approach. It's fresh, young, and very true to my personality."

Nadine loved how the clothes Rosario picked from Kenneth Cole and Tango complemented her new look.

Ever on the go, Pearl Gregorio finds dressing well for work and for everyday to be quite a challenge, given her late and long hours.

To up her "cool chick quotient," the stylists chose the latest collection from Tango for Pearl, who absolutely enjoyed being a fab femme for a day.

"I've always been so conservative with my style choices," she says. "This experience has opened me up to try being more experimental with my looks."

Want your own dynamic and fabulous makeover? Just shop with your Metrobank Femme Visa and enjoy the perks of shopping credits worth P10,000 or spending a day with Metrobank's Femme Visa style consultants for a makeover. Plus you get first dibs on the most up-to-date style news as part of the Metrobank Fab Femme Friends promo.

To join the promo and qualify for the monthly draw, all you need to be is a Metrobank Femme Visa cardholder in good standing. Draws are held every first week of the month, with the shopping credits awarded monthly and the makeovers every quarter.

PEARL Gregorio, call center agent, exudes a subtly sexy look with a blue sweetheart-cut top with chain accent by Tango.

Infanticipating in style

1. NAUTICAL look in navy and white; 2. Grecian chiffon dress; 3. Full, long skirt worn casually with a scoop-neck tee; 4. Five-way scarf and versatile nappy bag; 5. Sequined caftan can go from pool to dinner.

DESIGNED TO BE WORN THROUGHOUT pregnancy and after for maximum comfort and style, EGG's current collection includes casual nautical and bohemian styles, evening wear and fun accessories.

Wide sailor ¾-leg pants are teamed with a crisp white crossover top and pinstriped jacket. Slouch pants in cool, breathable cotton/linen look gorgeous with the fantastic tie-T (also doubles as a breastfeeding top for after). Add a splash of red with the tunic top, layered over a lace-up shirt—a fabulous corporate look teamed with navy pinstripe pants.

Feel floaty and cool in EGG's Angel dress in light cotton, or sophisticated in the Pucci dress. EGG also has such a fabulous collection of jeans, from the popular Real Denims to the new IT Jean, not forgetting the denim crops for a boho vibe.

The Charlotte Devereux for EGG designs include Grecian chiffon dresses embellished with beads and feathers. Silver sequins on a soft stretch waistband tie in beautifully with the silky top in rose or foam.

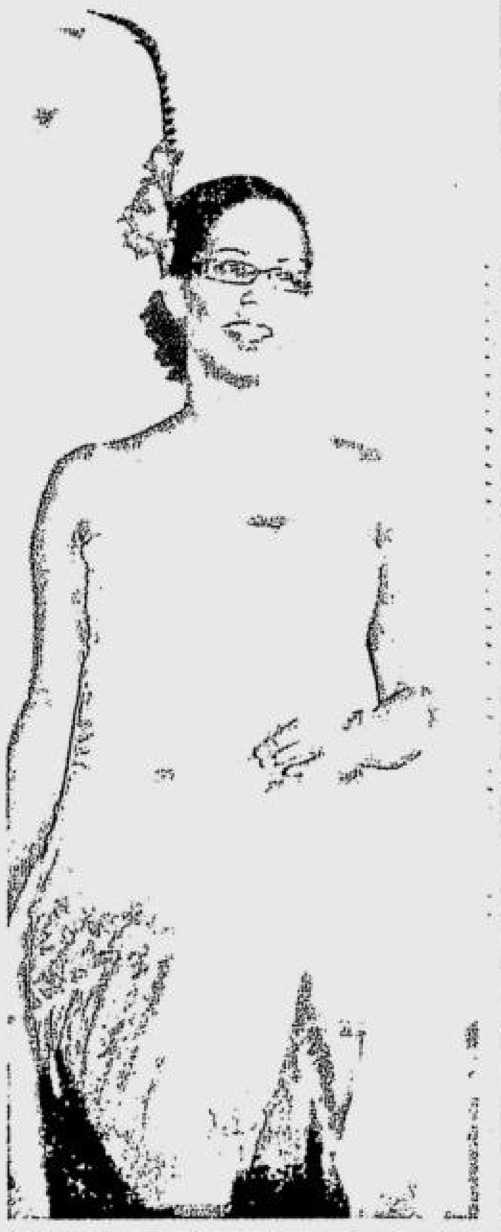
The feather skirt dress would be stunning for a wedding or just effortlessly cool thrown over a pair of jeans.

Customize your EGG T-shirt with a "Due in" transfer—spare people the much-asked question! And an absolute must: the incredibly handy Nappy Bag. It comes with a wipeable changing mat, bottle warmer and a clear pocket on the front to personalize it with a photo of your baby. Use beforehand as a tote. It's great for dads as well!

A fantastic new design for breastfeeding—the EGG Singlet keeps you cool and comfortable and oh so discreet. Not forgetting the smooth cup Maternity Bra with a sexy hint of lace for absolute comfort (matching underwear as well).

EGG is located at Glorietta 4, 2/F, Ayala Center Makati (7528203-04) and Mall of Asia, shop 2114, Bay Boulevard, Pasay City (5560115-16).

SHIMMER in a rose silky top with silver sequins on a soft stretch waistband.



WHO says preggies can't wear feathers? There is a demand for EGG special occasion dresses.

It's raining Flat & Slim, LCD & plasma TVs at Automatic Centre's

APPLIANCE STORM

Ayala Mall Glorietta on July 17 to 30

0% interest on all items

Summer's over and the rains have come, and at Automatic Centre's first appliance exhibit at the onset of the rainy season, it's raining flat and slim, LCD and plasma TVs at amazing zero-percent interest installment deals.

Ongoing from July 17 to 30, 2006 at Ayala Mall Glorietta 3, the zero-percent interest installment are offered for all brands and models ranging from 3 to 24 months.

Great discounts and lots of fantastic freebies also await customers at the exhibit.

With all the major credit cards accepted, Automatic Centre has made it easier for you to take home that much-desired flat screen, plasma and LCD TVs, DVD

FLAT/E5

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ZR100
• 680,000 pixels
• 20x Optical Zoom

ZR400
• 1.33 megapixel CCD
• 14x Optical Zoom

NEW ZR500
• 680,000 pixels
• 25x Optical Zoom

NEW ZR600
• 680,000 pixels
• 25x Optical Zoom

NEW ZR700
• 680,000 pixels
• 25x Optical Zoom

OPTURA 50
• 2.2 megapixels
• 10x Optical Zoom

OPTURA 60
• 2.2 megapixels
• 14x Optical Zoom

OPTURA 600
• 4.3 megapixels
• 10x Optical Zoom

OPTURA S1
• 2.2 megapixels
• 10x Optical Zoom

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Promo Period: July 17 to August 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3739 Series of 2006.

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Canon introduces the World's slimmest and smallest DVD Photo DV camcorders

The DC20 and DC10 are the first ever DVD Photo DV camcorders. These two Photo DVs offer consumers the unparalleled connectivity and convenience of taking video or snapping still shots for immediate storage onto DVDs, which can then be played using a normal DVD player. The introduction of the DC20/10 expands Canon's Photo DV range of camcorders, renowned for their ability to record equally stunning, lifelike movies and photos.

The DC20 features a 2.2-megapixel CCD, RGB colour filter, and more camera functions; the DC10 is equipped with a 1.3-megapixel CCD. Both Photo DVs have a powerful 10x genuine Canon optics zoom lens and Canon's exclusive DIGIC DV imaging processor for superb, high quality movies and stills recording.

Space age design, pocket edition size

The DC20 and DC10 have a highly futuristic design concept featuring sleek, space age lines that is totally unlike any other camcorder on the market right now. The use of aluminium for the body gives the Photo DVs a robust, hardy feel that is reassuringly tough. The upmarket feel is further enhanced by a built-in lens cover that snaps smartly back into the Photo DV body. In addition, the DC20 and DC10 boast the slimmest and smallest body in the 2.0 and 1.3-megapixel class respectively*.

Convenience of DVD

The DVD offers a number of convenient ease-of-use advantages. Users can obtain quick, random access to recorded footage without having to constantly forward and rewind a tape. Another advantage of the DVD - the DC20/10 automatically detects and writes to blank portions of the DVD without any possible risk of accidentally overwriting recorded footage.

Video editing is more easily done on the DC20/10 without the need to connect to a PC - which can be too much of a hassle for the casual hobbyist. Video editing features include the Visual Index function that displays recorded footage in a convenient layout. The Play List function allows you to choose your favourite footage or still images and change the order or to divide footage. Users can also immediately divide or delete original footage freely on the Photo DV with the Quick Edit function. Images can be recorded using the miniSDTM card for high-speed photo taking, then later copied over to the DVD with the emptied miniSDTM card again available for storing more images.

DC 20 Photo DV

DC 10 Photo DV

Other features

As befits their status as part of the Photo DV range, the DC20/10 has a host of useful and superior camera functions. Point-and-shoot users will appreciate the 9-point AiAF that allows fast and accurate focusing of off-centre subjects. A wide variety of Scene modes allow fuss-free shooting with camera settings preset according to differing scene conditions. The DC20/10 offers outstanding high-speed continuous shooting of up to 5 fps. A selectable Drive mode lets users choose from single, High-speed continuous, Continuous, or Auto Exposure Bracketing. The DC20 further includes a light guide flash and a mini video light, which are accessible with one-touch operation.

Users can easily access to the widescreen video function with the one touch button that switches the Photo DV to record in high-resolution 16:9 video, which will greatly appeal to users who own widescreen TVs. A super high brightness LCD ensures easy composition of shots even under direct sunlight, also with one touch access; while a Finalize button located on the Photo DV body provides easy access to this frequently used function. Likewise, a user-friendly Print/Share button allows for single button press to immediately download or print images to a computer/ printer.

Bundled software

The bundled MY DVD software includes a DVD Authoring function that allows capturing/editing; making chapters and access to DVD interactive menu; and finally, DVD burning. The MY DVD software allows users to download footage in three different ways: one-touch dubbing from camcorder to PC; burn DVDs using the camcorder directly; or use the PC to read unfinalised DVDs. Once the DVD has been finalised, users can simply eject the disc and immediately pop it into the DVD player without the hassle of downloading to a PC first.

Connectivity and optional accessories

The DC20/10 is the world's first PictBridge compatible DVD camcorder. Both the DC20/10 features USB 2.0 Hi-Speed connectivity for fast file transfers; PictBridge interface allows direct printing to compatible printers. A wide range of optional accessories is available like tele-converter or wide converter lenses that allow for more creative options.

It's raining **Flat** & Slim . . .

From page E4

players, video and digital cameras, MP3 players and home theater systems. A wide variety of washing machines, air conditioners, refrigerators, cooking ranges and microwave ovens are also offered at the same zero-percent interest installment plans.

With an extensive array of global brands, shoppers can choose from Samsung, Sony, LG, Pioneer, Sharp, Panasonic, JVC, Toshiba, Philips and Hitachi. For the young and for the young at heart, there are high-tech gadgets available like iPods and Palm PDAs.

Portable DVD players also come in handy with Nextbase and Audiovox, two of the most affordable and dependable DVD player brands around. Completing the exhibit's great buys are the white lines which include refs, washers and dryers from Electrolux, Whirlpool and White Westinghouse, as well as gas ranges from La Germania and Glemgas.

Now on its 58th year, Automatic Centre currently has 21 branches nationwide. It offers everything and anything you need for this rainy season be it for the home or the office.

As a pioneering appliance store, it has always kept the varying needs of its customers in mind and has always strived to find solutions for the consumers' specific requirements.

Testament to this is the "Appliance Storm" exhibit and all the exhibits it has held previously. These highlight the company's continuing efforts to keep Filipinos abreast with the latest innovations and technologies while making these products available at good and reasonable value to consumers.

APPLIANCE STORM
Ayala Mall Glorietta on July 17 to 30

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CALOOCAN
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MANILA
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APPLIANCE STORM
Ayala Mall Glorietta on July 17 to 30

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- Glemgas
- Whirlpool
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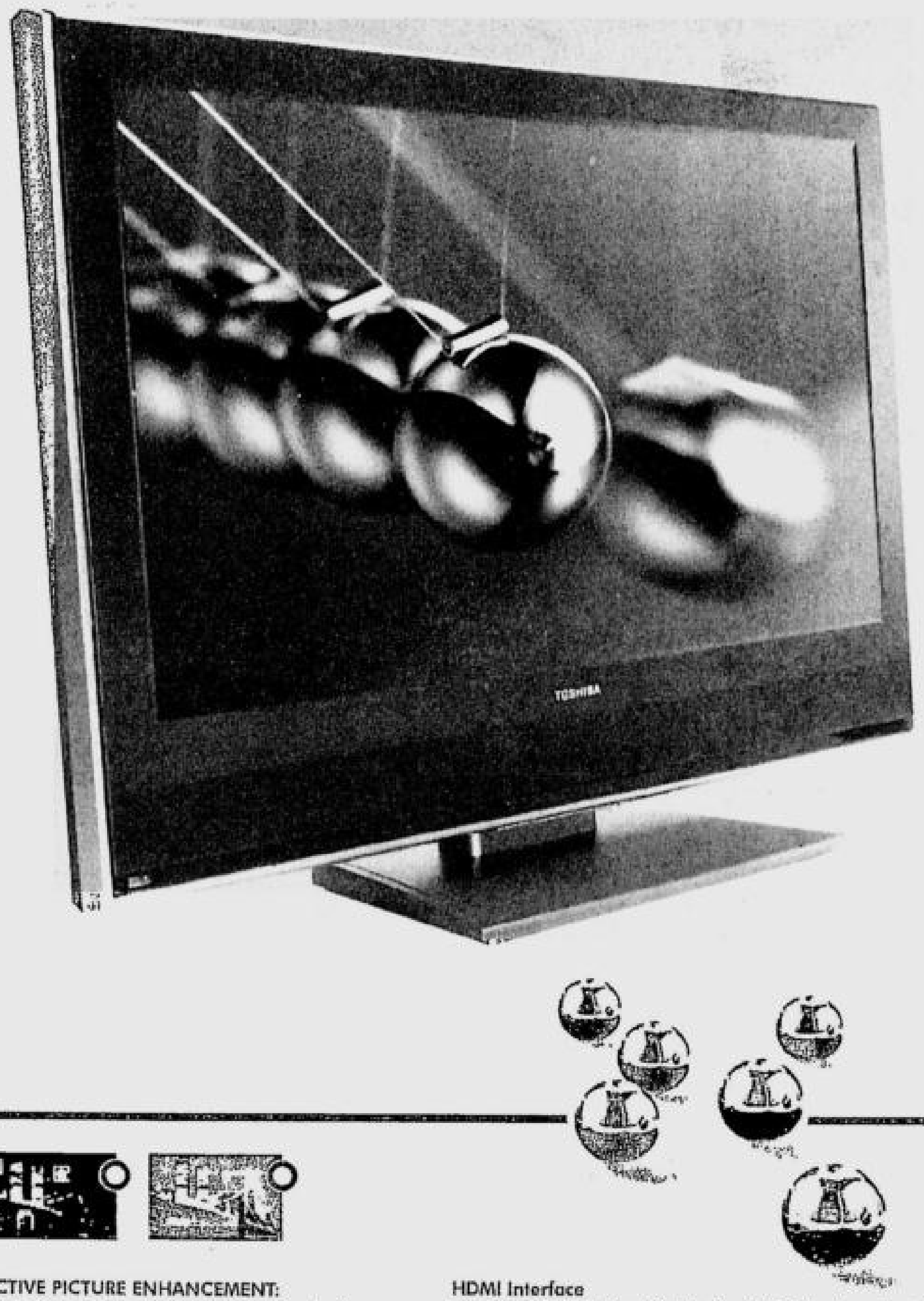

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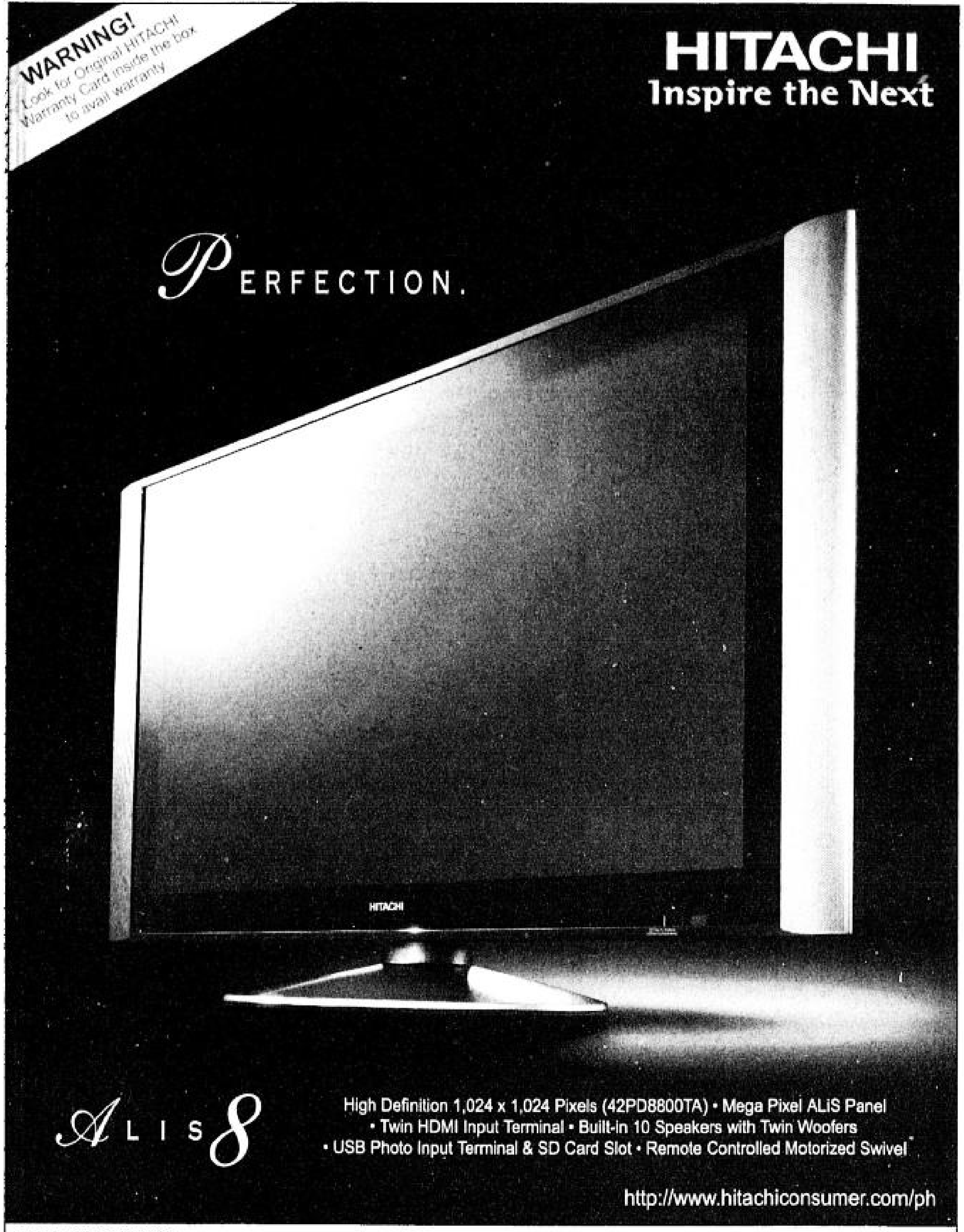

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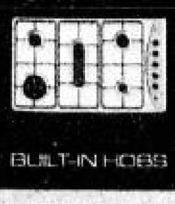

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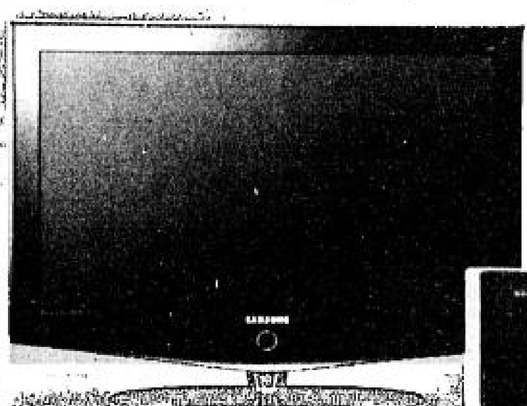

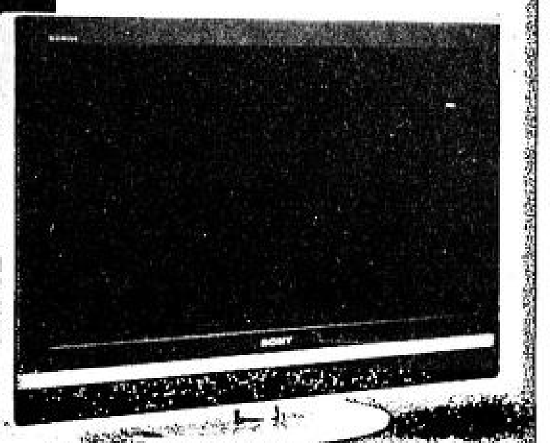

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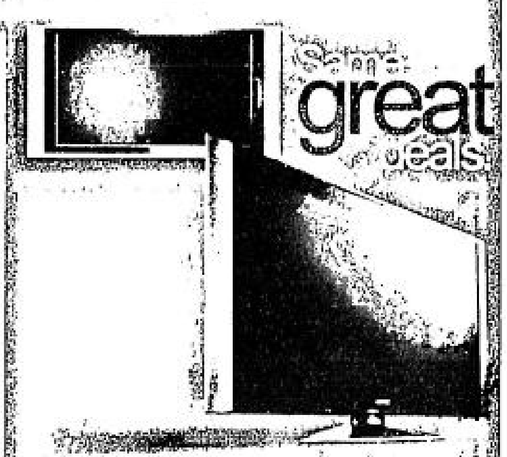

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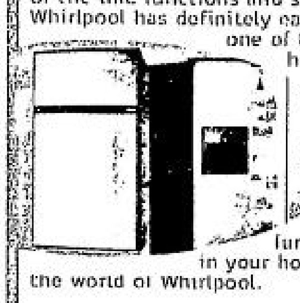

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FASHION A-Z

Fashionology

BANCO DE ORO

Brushing up on the A, B, Z of fashion

By Cheche V. Moral

HMMM, SO, WOMAN, YOU THINK YOU KNOW fashion. Okay, we believe you. But then again, even experts like yourself require some brushing up on the fashion alphabet from time to time.

After all, no self-respecting fashionista should be caught in the embarrassing situation of not being able to tell the difference between a Birks and a Birkin. Or, gods of fashion forbid, be caught unable to pronounce "Lanvin" right, or say Mr. Ralph Lauren's name out loud as if he were some French-born monsieur.

For the non-fashionistas, let's learn along. Fret not, even some of the best dressed out there can't say Comme des Garçons right (they'd never admit it, though, and would rather awkwardly show you the tag than tell you who made their dress).

FYI, it's *lawn-van*, *com-day-gar-sohn* and *law-rehn*.

FASHIONOLOGY/ F3

A

Aquascutum

From the combined Latin words that literally mean "water shield," the brand was originally known for the weather-resistant coats worn by 19th-century British army. Now a full fashion line of contemporary clothing, it has a heritage of dressing up royals and celebrities. You can get a piece of that from its stores closest to Manila—in Hong Kong and Tokyo.

AQUASCUTUM F/W 06; STYLE.COM

B

Birkin

You may never own a Birkin but you can at least learn what the fuss is all about. This status purse was created in the 1980s after the British actress Jane Birkin complained to Hermès of the difficulty of opening the Kelly (*see K*), the French luxury house's other iconic bag. The price of a Birkin equals that of a small car, and with a two-year-long waiting list, at the very least. Skins used are rare, and everything is handmade. We say, girl, dream on!

ARTENGINE.CO.JP

C

Chloé

Born in the 1960s and made popular in part by its eponymous fragrance, Chloé has become known for its sophisticated look but with a modern street edge, owing to designer Phoebe Philo, who took over from friend Stella McCartney in 2001. Before them, there were Karl Lagerfeld and Martine Sitbon at the helm. It's yet unclear who will eventually take over Philo's post; she's recently left the house after nearly five remarkable years.

CHLOE F/W 06; STYLE.COM

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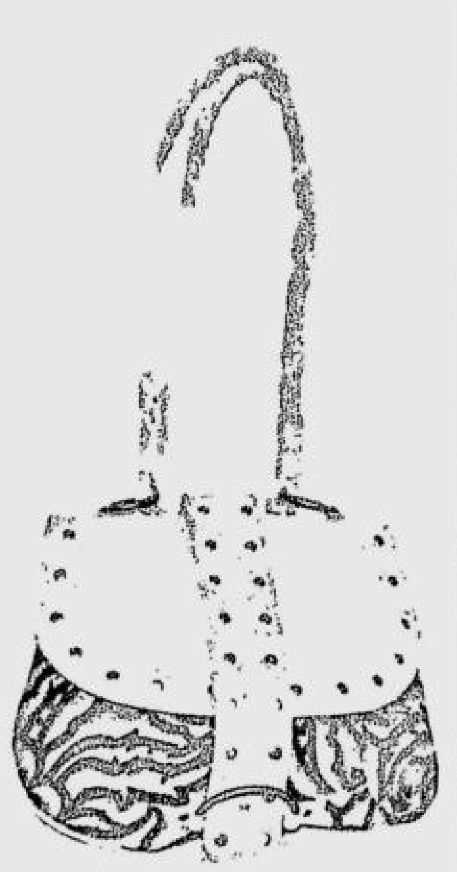


BAGS in the City, P750

Jenni Epperson

IT IS EASY TO DROOL OVER THE latest designer bag seen on the Internet or in the latest issue of Vogue magazine. It is just as easy to fantasize that you are a model dressed in Jackie O-inspired outfits (bandana, capri pants, oversized shades, striped shirt and bejeweled thong sandals) endorsing the latest "it" bag. And it is just as easy to imagine that you're on some exotic island where the yacht, wind, blue waters and your bag are your only companions. In fact, it is just as easy to wish that you were one of the Hollywood hotties caught by the paparazzi toting one of the latest to-die-for bags.

The buildup created by the PR machinery for the next new luxury bag is so exciting that by the time the bags are actually sold in the stores, the wide-eyed shopping monsters like me are ready to pounce on the leather prey. (One cannot forget that infamous scene of Samantha Jones in "Sex and the City" coming unhinged over the Birkin Bag.)

Yet, the excitement acquired from your latest acquisition fizzles out as fast as you whip out your credit card. The fantasy is over: what your favorite celebrity once owned is now yours. The adventure of the hunt is over. The quest for the Ultimate Brag Bag has been fulfilled. And you are left asking yourself, "*Eh, ano ngayon?*" As my blues brother BB King liked to say, "The thrill is gone."

Though buying an exclusive designer bag comes with its own bragging rights (Hello! You blew your entire salary on it; you should at least enjoy the ohhs and ahhs of your friends and enemies), the Ultimate Brag Bags are the ones that I like to call a "Head Scratcher."

They make you whip your head around because they look so fabulous, yet you also wonder why you've never seen them before. These are the bags you don't look for nor lose sleep over, but once you've seen it, it just talks to you, evilly whispering "buy me. I know you want me."

A bag like that is one of those great finds you almost missed had you not made a wrong turn in some labyrinthine mall out of curiosity.

The moment is serendipitous. It is love at first sight.

For me, the Ultimate Brag Bag comes with an interesting story. And I don't mean the kind of whiny and pathetic yarn about pawning your mother's wedding ring or having an eating disorder just to acquire it.

Rather, it's the kind of story that links you to your bag as if fate had a hand in it. The kind of story that makes your bag one of many heirlooms you will leave for your rabidly bag-hungry daughter/granddaughter.

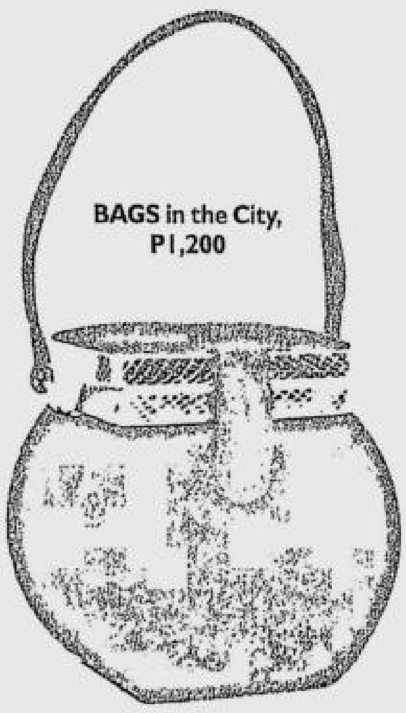
We all know that designer bags will always be the Mount Everest of bags—not only because of the excitement they generate, but also because of the assured quality and workmanship put into making them. You know that those oodles of pesos will be a worthwhile investment. These bags will probably outlast you, long enough for your clan to inherit them.

My Vuittons, Fendis and Hermeses are true head-turners, yes. But the ones that get stiff-necked stares are the bags that I scored in some small boutique or, believe it or not, a vintage-inspired tote that came free with a magazine I bought.

The words of Stevie Wonder are so appropriate for those inexpensive yet absolutely amazing brag bags. Unique, funky, absolutely fabulous or just plain bags with personality, they all deserve to be crooned to "Isn't she loooovely… "

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Those inexpensive yet absolutely amazing totes are the true headturners

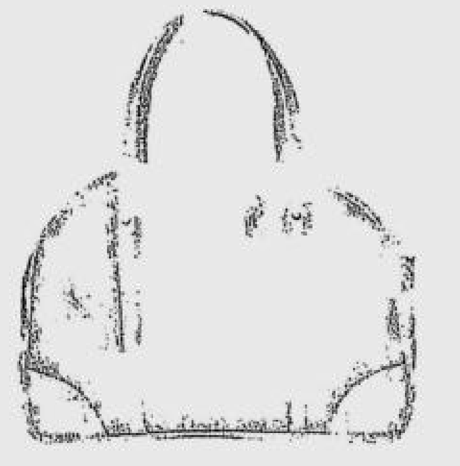


BAGS in the City, P1,200

PHOTOGRAPHY MARLONE RUBIO

SAPATO Manila, P 1,950

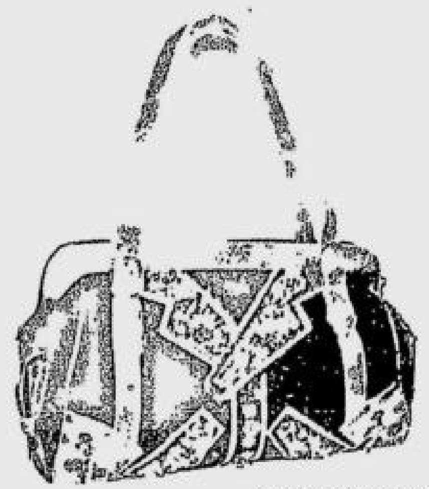
SISLEY, P2,800



BAGS In The City, P 850

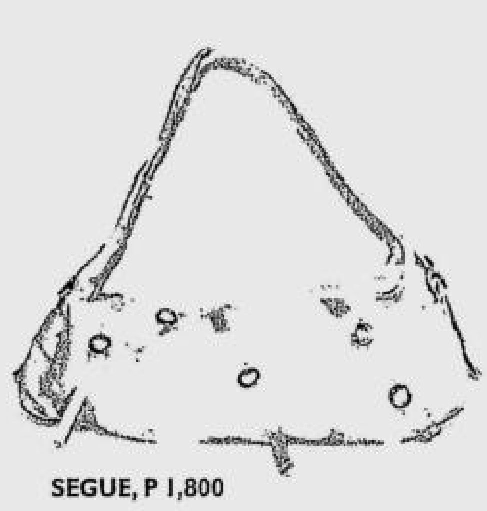
CHOCOLATE, P2,295

SUBSTANCE, P 2,664

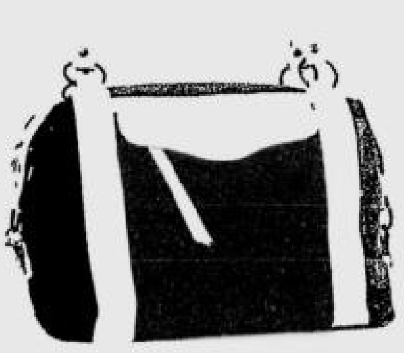


FABSHOP, P3,395

SM, P 99.75



SEGUE, P 1,800



COLE Vintage, P 880

DETAILS, P1,695

HIPSTOP, P 1,800

IRENE'S Closet, P 2,100

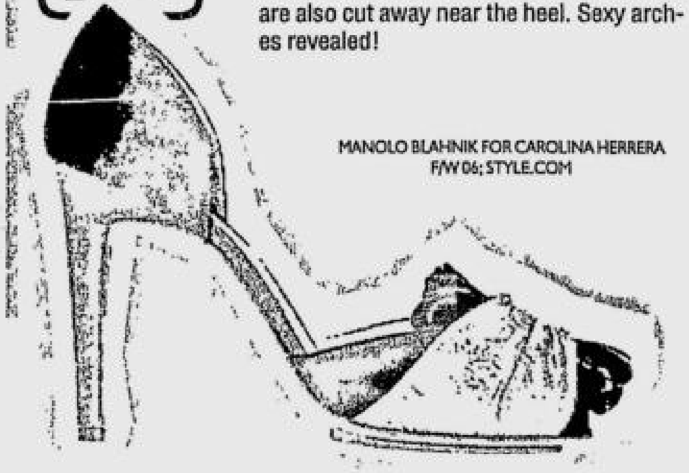
Fashionology

From page F1

D

D'Orsay

This is a pump style wherein the vamp (the upper part of the shoe from the ankles to the toes, called the instep) is cut away close to the toe box, and one or two sides are also cut away near the heel. Sexy arches revealed!



MANOLO BLAHNIK FOR CAROLINA HERRERA F/W 06; STYLE.COM

E

Emilio Pucci

Bold swirls of color are possibly the first thing that comes to mind when you hear of the name Pucci (*pooh-chee*), the Italian fashion house founded after WWII. The famous Pucci print appears from clothing to furniture and has been copied all over. With its progenitor gone, the legacy of the Prince of Prints lives on with British designer Matthew Williamson as creative director. Oh, and did you know it was also Mr. Pucci who made popular the Capri pants?

EMILIO PUCCI SPRING 06 RTW. STYLE.COM

F

Flounce

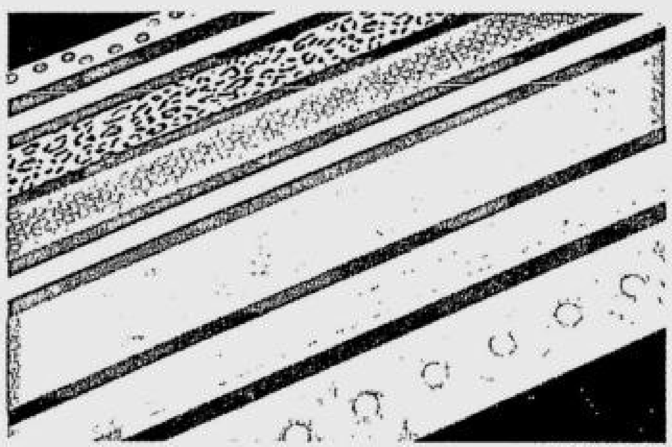
It's any piece of gathered material sewn on to a dress or a skirt as ornamentation.

ELIE SAAB SPRING 06; STYLE.COM

G

Grosgrain

Pronounced *groh'-grayn*, it's a piece of silk or rayon fabric, or ribbon with coarse-textured, narrow horizontal ribbing. It's used in clothing, footwear and accessories.

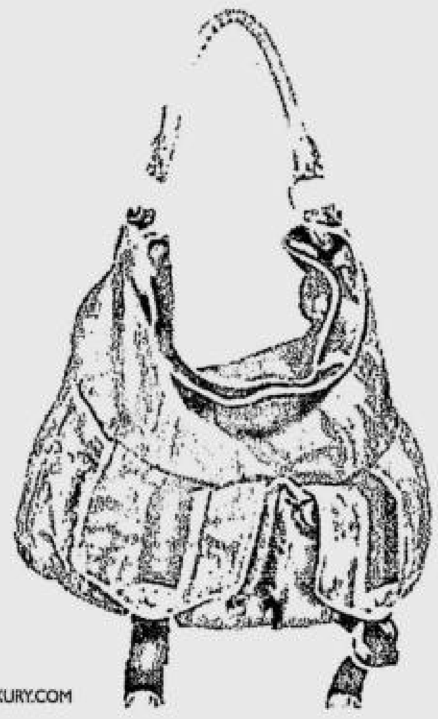


WRIGHTS.COM

H

Hobo

An unstructured bag style that's zippered on top and with a shoulder strap. It has the shape of a slouchy crescent. Best for casual days.



MARC JACOBS; E-LUXURY.COM

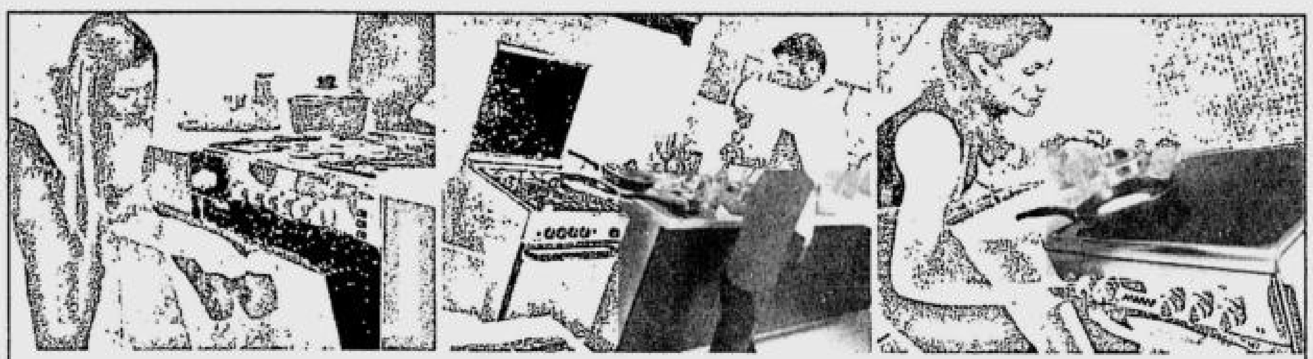
I

Imitation of Christ

A controversial name, maybe more so in these parts. The label was founded in New York in 2000 by self-proclaimed "social engineers" Tara Subkoff and Matthew Damhave with reconstructed thrift-shop clothes. Lauded as hip by fashion watchers, the pair staged their first show in a funeral parlor. The following year, they sat their models on the front row and forced editors and buyers to walk the runway. IOC's first denim line was unveiled for Spring '06.

NYMAG.COM

FASHIONOLOGY/F1



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Acer PD322PD
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5. Customer should present his proof of purchase (e.g. sales invoice and/or official receipt), two (2) valid IDs (SSS,TIN, Company, Passport); authorization letter and representative's ID is needed if claim is made through a representative. For provincial customers, EK Day Passes will be sent through courier upon submission of the needed documents listed above.
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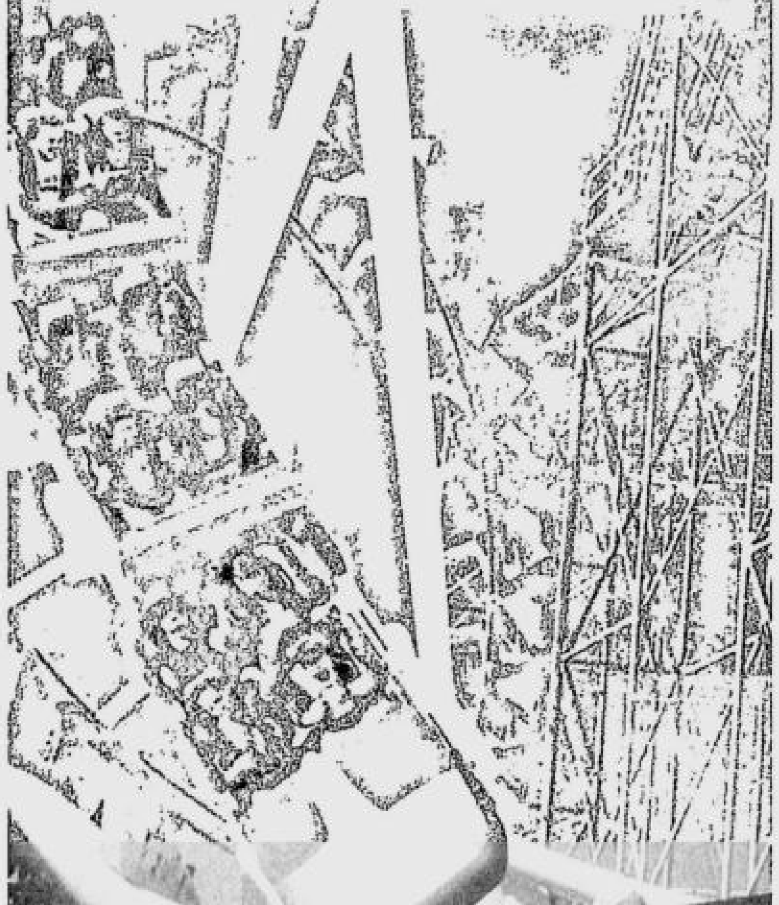

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Fashionology

From page F3

J

Jewel neckline

So-called because it's the perfect background for your estate bling. It's a high, round neckline with a clean finish.

SAFETYMERCHANT.NET

K

Kelly

Hermès' iconic '50s purse got its moniker after the former Hollywood star Grace Kelly, who had then married Prince Rainier of Monaco, was photographed with a large black tote on a US visit in 1956. The purse had the expectant mom's expanding belly as backdrop. It would become the symbol of the princess' style and elegance. A vintage Kelly is said to value at least $10,000. Costs almost as much as your Toyota.

IBSZ.NET

L

Lamé

Nothing "lame" about this fabric. Pronounced *lah-may*, this is a brocade material with metallic threads woven into it. It's lustrous and usually used in evening wear. And, of course, during the Disco '80s.

EMILIO PUCCI SPRING 06;
STYLE.COM

M

Maillot

Pronounced *mah-yow*, a one-piece swimwear style with legs cut high and, usually, backless. Maillots, named for a French hosiery maker, were originally worn by dancers and were translated into swimwear only in the 1930s.

MELISSA ODABASH; ODABASH.COM

N

HARVEYNICHOLS.COM

Nicholas Ghesquière

Many of you must have seen the photos of the wedding dress of the new Mrs. Keith Urban, Hollywood superstar Nicole Kidman (or portions of it, at least). There's a reason fashion icons like Nic seek out the genius of Mr. Ghesquière (reads *guess-key-air*), who made the Balenciaga wedding dress. With the young Frenchman's impeccable tailoring and exquisite jersey dresses, he is said to be a rightful heir to the creative throne of the house of the late great Cristobal Balenciaga, where he's been creative director since 1997. Balenciaga, of course, was the Basque designer once called by Christian Dior as "the master of us all."

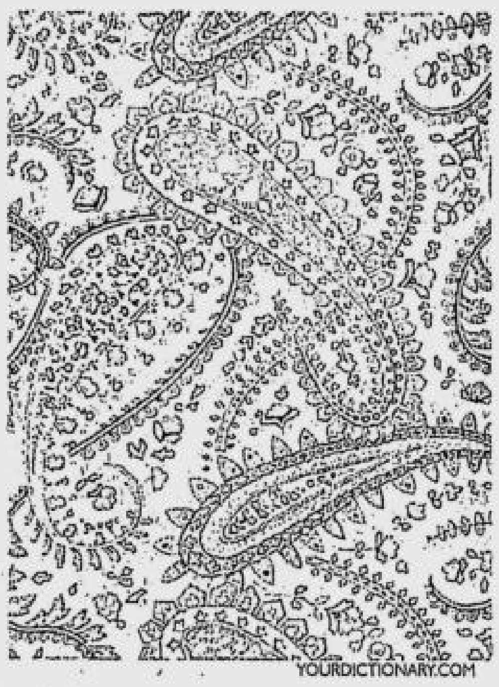
O

THEFROCKFACTORY.CO.UK;
KUNY.CH

Organdy, organza

An orgy of fabric terms you hear often but more likely have the remotest idea about. Organza (top photo), of course, is that stiff and wiry sheer material used in wedding gowns. Organdy, meanwhile, is equally lightweight and sheer, but not too often as stiff. A most common example is the organdy ribbon used for gift-wrapping.

P



Paisley

A popular pattern that appears in trends time and again. It's that swirled teardrop shape pattern resembling a fern, which got its name from Paisley, Scotland, but was in fact adapted from prints in Indian saris.

YOURDICTIONARY.COM

Q

Alexander McQueen

In spite, or because, of his bad-boy image, the British McQueen is widely praised for his mastery of his craft and inventiveness. He boasts of a rock-star clientele and, not unlike his compatriot, John Galliano, is easily recognizable for his tattoos and shaved head. He worked at Givenchy before he debuted his own line.

THISISLONDON.CO.UK

R

Ruching

Pronounced *roo-sheeng*, this trimming technique is achieved by gathering up a strip of fabric and stitching it through the center to create a ruffled effect. It's likely you have at least one top or dress with a ruched detail in your closet.

MARC JACOBS; E-LUXURY.COM

S

Savile Row

This is where you would take your honey shopping when you want him looking like an English dandy. Located in London's West End, Savile Row houses upscale tailors known for the excellence of their tailored menswear.

SEARCH.COM

T

Terry cloth

This is the staple material for all your bath garments—looped, plush-piled knit cotton fabric. Terry, however, has transcended its lowly life as towel and robe material, and now appears in designer tracksuits and other sportswear.

SHOPBOP.COM

U

SARAHWEST.COM

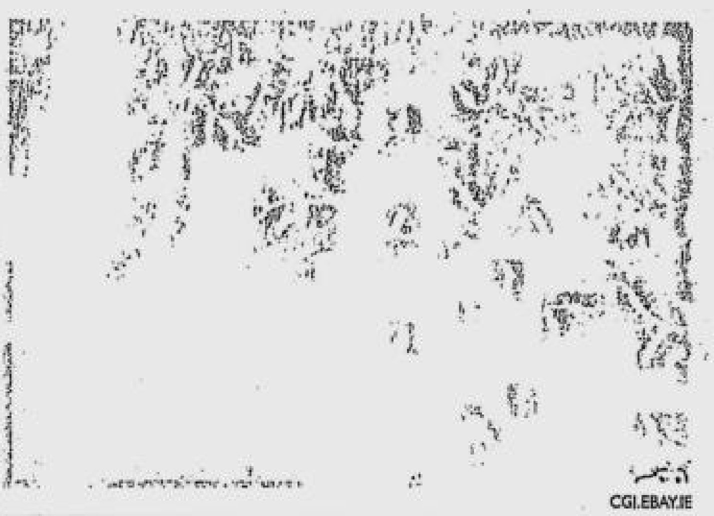
UGG boots

Loved or reviled by opposing camps, UGG boots have been in the market for some three decades, but it was UGGs-clad paparazzi photos of celebs like Paris Hilton and Sarah Jessica Parker that gave these sheepskin-lined footwear street cred. Originally created for Aussie surfers who needed something warm to slip into after catching some waves, the name was said to be a short form of "ugly boots," owing to its awkward shape. But UGG fans don't seem to mind. Its thermostatic quality has driven Californians to wear them both in winter and summer. Well, to each his own, even in fashion.

V

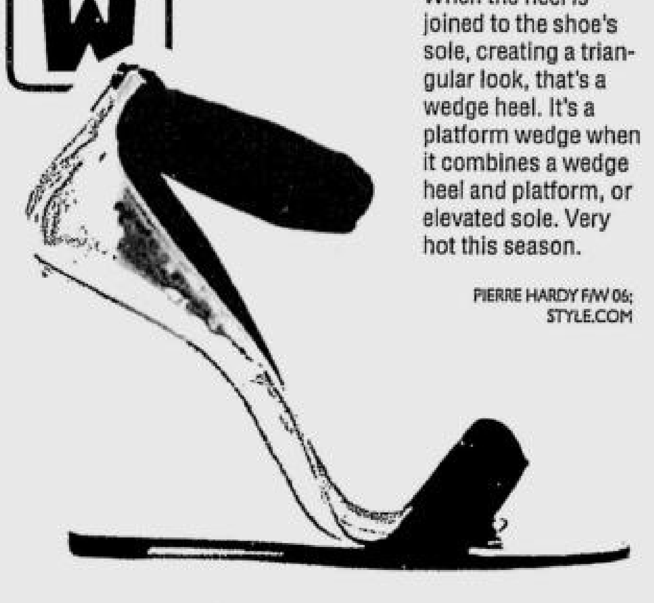
Voile

(*Vwal*) A very lightweight material with a slight crisp feel, usually used in curtains and, owing to its easy draping quality, also in blouses.



CGI.EBAY.IE

W

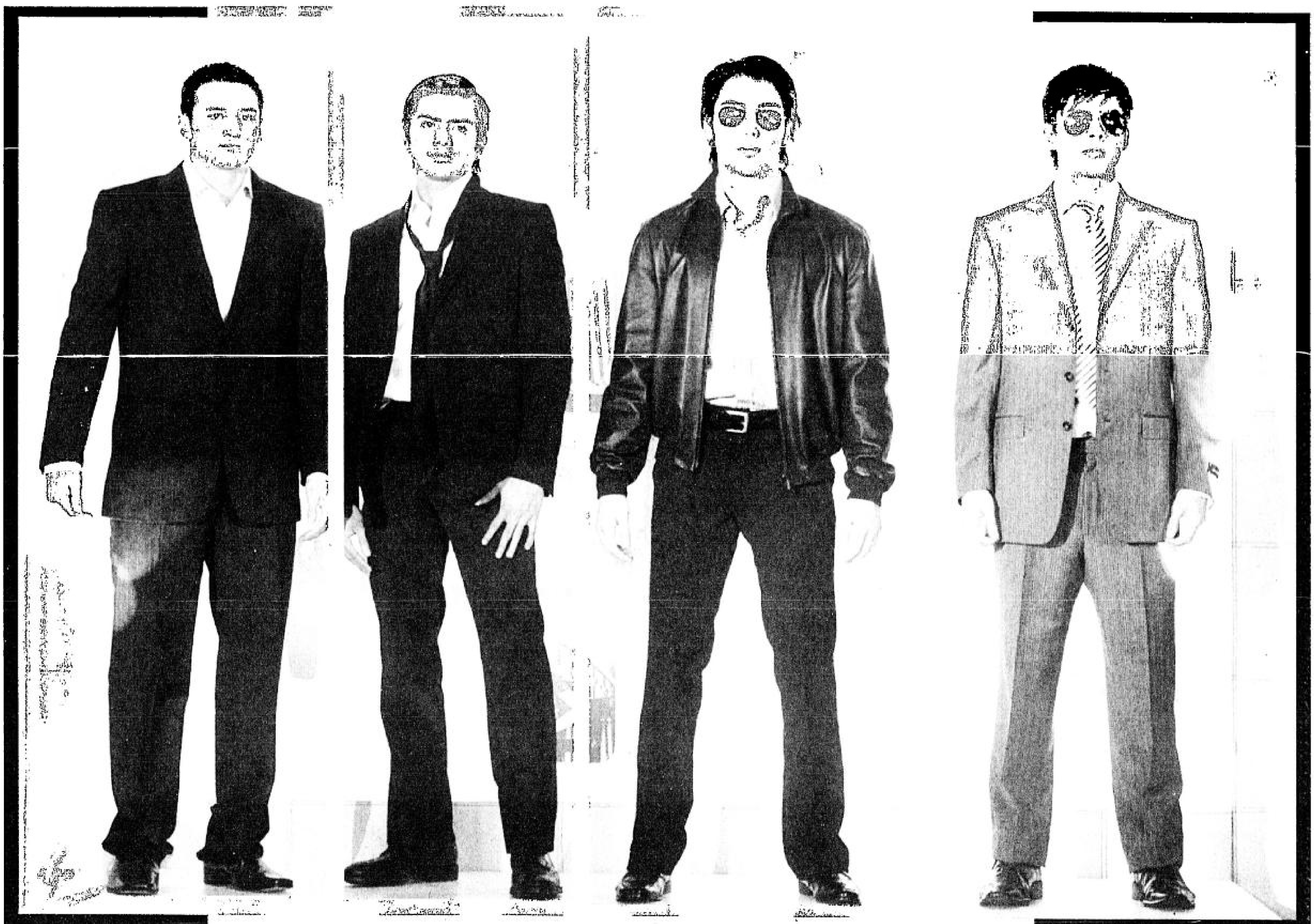


Wedge heel

When the heel is joined to the shoe's sole, creating a triangular look, that's a wedge heel. It's a platform wedge when it combines a wedge heel and platform, or elevated sole. Very hot this season.

PIERRE HARDY F/W 06;
STYLE.COM

FASHIONOLOGY/ F6



From straight-laced to stylish

Filipino men are starting to realize that being fashionable and being gay are two different things

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THANKS TO THEIR STYLISH gay friends, Filipino men are starting to loosen up when it comes to grooming and fashion. After years of making do with the basics, a growing number of straight guys have finally embraced the finer points of looking and feeling good.

This newfound awareness is evident in the growing popularity of makeover shows like "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and homegrown fashion magazines for men such as Manual and Metro Him.

Together with Rustan's, the latter recently staged a fashion show in Makati featuring the department store's latest RTW clothes, shoes and accessories.

Unlike in most fashion shows in the past, the male models were no mere escorts to their female counterparts. This time they were given equal (if not more) exposure as the women.

In keeping with the current rage to go tight, the show featured a great deal of dark denim jeans, tapered suits and snug jackets. This close-to-the-body silhouette would have been hard to mass-market as recently as three years ago, when most Filipino men had yet to discover the virtues of going regularly to the gym. Well, not anymore.

Carlo Tadiar, editor in chief of Metro Him, hopes to address the concerns of this growing market by coming up with on-target features and photo shoots. The magazine, although heavy on fashion, doesn't contain basic information designed to put you to sleep, he insists. Neither does it advocate cutting-edge stuff that might scare away mainstream readers.

"It's targeted to men for whom style is very important," he says. "If we're to go by the tremendous growth of the global vanity market, the number of such men is indeed growing rapidly."

Believe it or not, straight men really care about how they look and are unafraid to indulge in some vanities. Looking good isn't an end in itself, but rather a means to get ahead, either socially or in the romance department.

"I think it's a recent development," says Tadiar. "Before, most men would wear anything, while their wives and girlfriends looked fabulous."

Taking their cue

The "competition" has become so fierce that not a few men now regularly work out and get facials in their attempts to get noticed. They soon discover that their new physiques, honed by frequent visits to the gym, can now allow them to wear the trendiest and the most tapered outfits.

These men, whether they care to admit it or not, will most likely take their cue from the gay man next door. Tadiar isn't referring to the stereotypical gay wearing makeup and women's clothes (no offense meant), but the slim, well-groomed "Will" type dressed in snappy suits and the latest designer labels.

"It's a surefire formula to get the ladies' attention," says Tadiar. "It didn't take long for straight guys to see that it works."

Before gays made an impression on real men, the latter only had foreign movie stars to look up to as role models. Instead of trying to look in vain like Jude Law or Brad Pitt, men can now realize their dream of becoming a bona fide metrosexual by emulating how a stylish gay person dresses up.

"But there's no conscious effort on our part to appeal to a particular market segment," Tadiar clarifies. "As a fashion magazine, Metro Him wants to appeal to every man who loves to look fashionable regardless of his orientation."

Based on reader feedback, he says, a good number of Filipinos are just beginning to accept the fact that being fashionable and being gay are two different things.

Not a few straight guys, for instance, thought that Metro Him was a gay magazine until they got hold of an issue. They were pleasantly surprised that it's not.

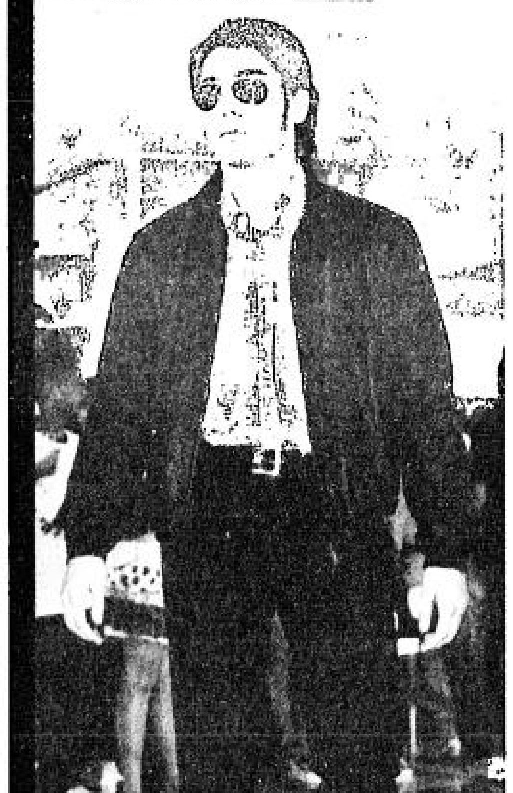
"I don't want to encourage any kind of homophobia," says Tadiar, "but the magazine isn't about [gay] advocacy either. Our focus is on fashion that will get you ahead and get you noticed without making you look ridiculous."

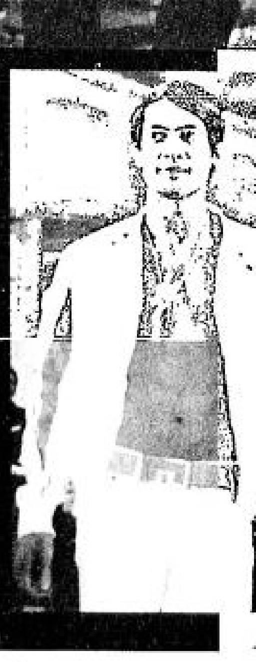
In other words, the stuff that graces Metro Him's pages are clothes its fashionable male staffers are likely to wear. So if there's one thing Tadiar draws the line at, it's featuring skirts (except perhaps the Scottish kilt) for men.

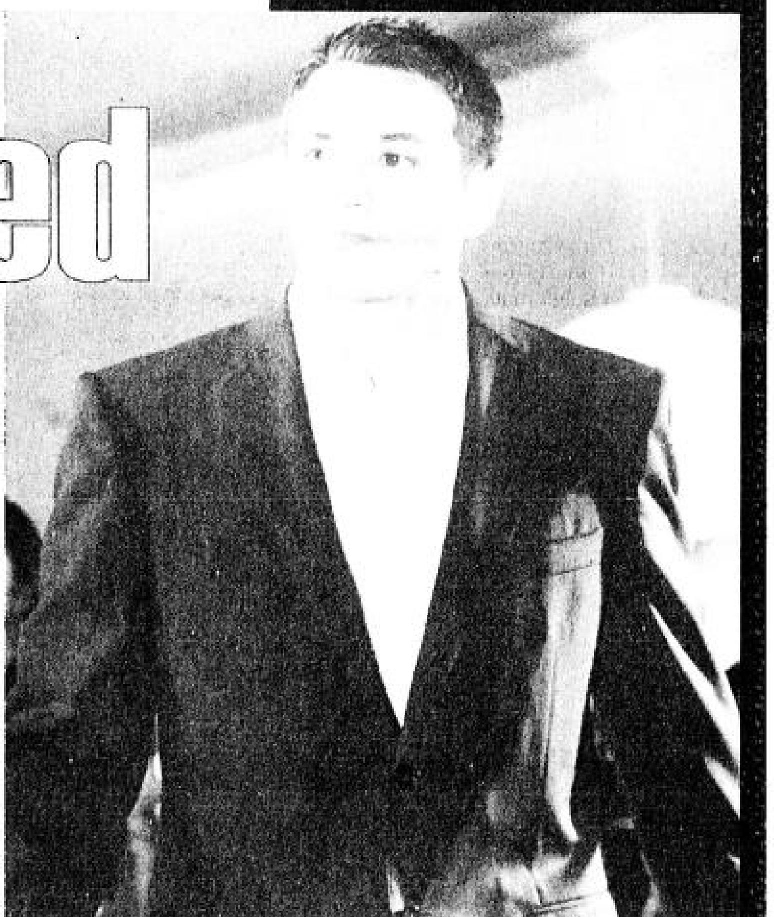
"Even if I were editing a gay magazine, I'd never promote skirts for men," he says.

Indeed, whether you're gay or straight, there are certain articles of clothing you simply can't get away with.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph





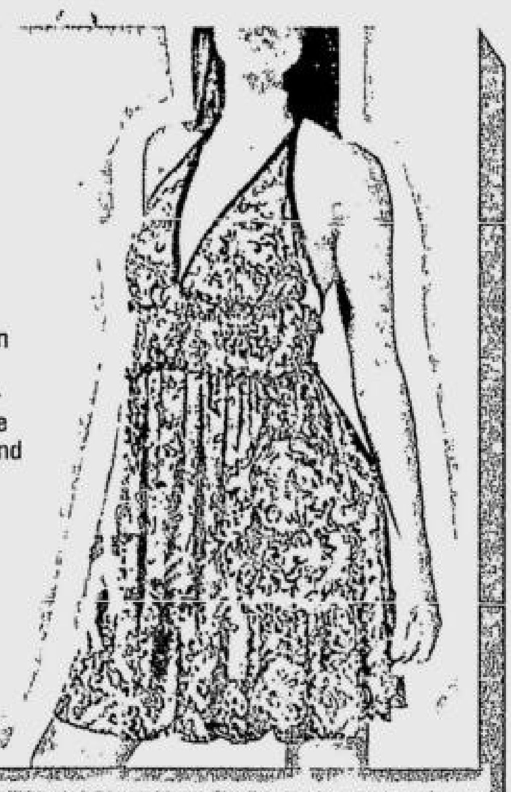


RUSTAN'S 2006
Ready-to-wear
Collection

Fashionology

From page F4

X



XOXO

Flirty, trendy fashion for young, active women, this American label is available at Rustan's. Hugs and kisses!

XOXO.COM

Y

Yoke

This is a cut of fabric seamed across a piece of clothing, either as an integral part of it or as mere decoration. That curved panel with a pointy thing across the back of a cowboy, uh, or cowgirl, shirt—that's called a yoke.

FUSIONKNITTING.COM

Z

Zac Posen

Only 25, the New York-born Posen's fame was initially predicted to last no more than two seasons. But he has proven naysayers wrong as he remains one of the most sought-after designers of "intelligent, powerful and eccentric" women, creating flattering clothes for A-list celebrities.

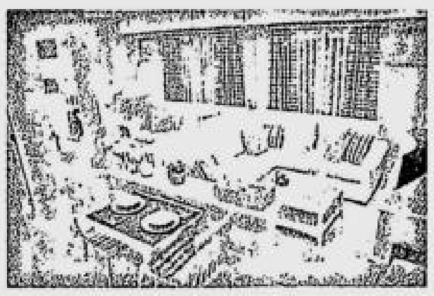
AP/SFGATE.COM

Avida offers more options in New Manila Towers

Avida Land is offering more options to condominium residents in its New Manila development. These include larger studio units as well as the introduction of one-bedroom and loft units in its Tower 2.

The New Manila project is one of Avida Land's three in-city condominium developments. It is located along Bonny Serrano Avenue and is a short drive to the Cubao Commercial District and Greenhills and Ortigas shopping centers, top schools and universities in Diliman, gimmick and nightlife establishments along the Tomas Morato food strip, and is accessible via public transportation including the MRT and LRT2 lines.

Priced within the reach of the middle-income market including young couples, single professionals, entrepreneurs, and OFWs, Avida Towers New Manila offers studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and loft units. The units range in price from P1 million to P3.2 million.



Living area of one-bedroom unit

"Our New Manila Towers will be offering a lot of innovations, including the availability of bigger units," says Dinna Bayangos, president of Avida Land.

Condo dwellers who want to sunbathe in the morning or catch a view of the city may do so in the privacy of their individual balconies, which are found in units from the ground up to the fifth floor.

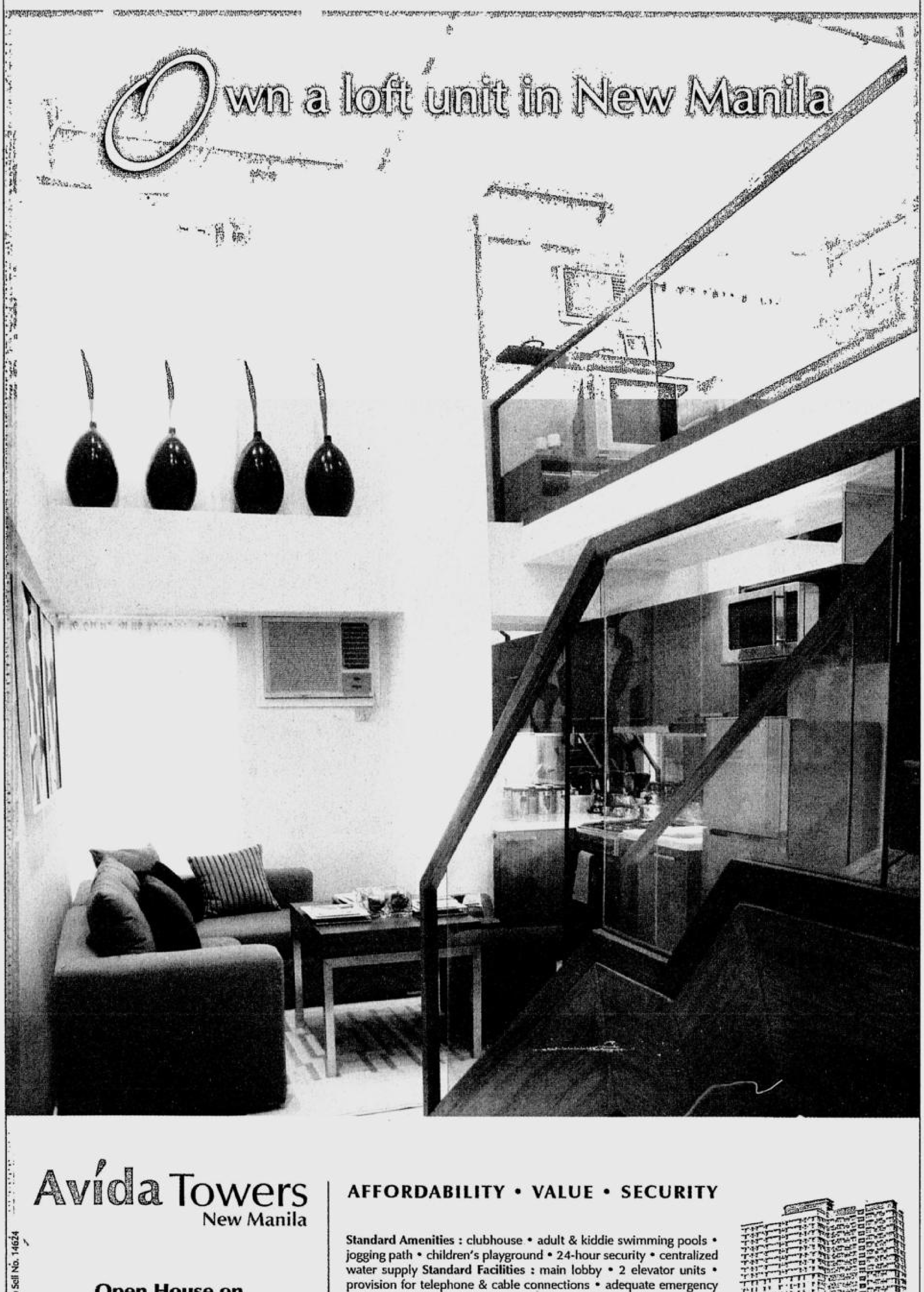
The multi-tower Avida Towers New Manila covers 1.2 hectares of prime land that will have a Zen-inspired theme for its pocket gardens and a jogging path where residents can exercise, rest, unwind and be spiritually uplifted.

An infinity swimming pool for adults and kids and children's playground will be located at the clubhouse area. All five towers will be interconnected at the podium level.

Prospective condo unit owners will have a chance to view the new model units designed by Isabel Asuncion, starting 22 July 2006. For more information about Avida Land, visit its website at www.avidaland.com or call 864-5744.

Living area of one-bedroom loft unit

Avída
Affordable living at its best
an AyalaLand company



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New Manila

Open House on
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Standard Amenities : clubhouse • adult & kiddie swimming pools • jogging path • children's playground • 24-hour security • centralized water supply Standard Facilities : main lobby • 2 elevator units • provision for telephone & cable connections • adequate emergency power • mailbox & drying cage per unit • garbage chute

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FASHION

Sizzling urbanism

Anyone with style, attitude and multi-faceted personality can be an 'urbanista'

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION LINGO USUALLY results from the trends and lifestyles of a generation.

In the '80s, labels like "Sloane rangers" (It girls from London like Princess Di and her circle of friends), "Valley girls" (preppy-ish gals from San Fernando Valley, California) and "Yuppies" (stylish young urban professionals) were hatched to refer to a coterie of individuals with specific fashion choices and ways of life. More recently, catchwords like "fashionista" and "metrosexual" have cropped up to portray a larger group of people who have a general love for fashion.

The latest add-on to fashion's ever-growing vocabulary is the term "Urbanism."

"Urban" is defined loosely as characteristic of the city or city life, while "-ism" refers to a doctrine, theory or set of principles. So literally, urbanism can be defined as lifestyle that's centered on the city.

Although this is partly what the word refers to, Millie Dizon, vice president for the marketing communications group of SM Inc., says the word espouses so much more than its literal meaning.

"It's borderless and more global. It's not just about dressing up a certain way or being a party girl, it's about having a purpose in life and having the courage to be whoever you want to be," she says.

So who qualifies as an "urbanista," which is another new term that refers to individuals who knowingly or unknowingly subscribe to urbanism? Dizon says that it can be anyone with style, attitude and a multi-faceted personality.

"Being cool now means being yourself, so the urbanista is always comfortable with himself or herself."

High-profile urbanistas around the world would include the likes of the late Jackie O., Donald Trump or Guy and Madonna. Locally, Charlene Muhlach, Ces Drilon and Tim Yap would come to mind.

But the *barista* from the neighborhood café, the bookworm of a sales assistant in the bookstore or even the soloist in the church choir can be as much of an urbanista as the above-mentioned personalities.

SM's image model Marc Nelson is the perfect example of a true urbanista. He's a citizen of the world, having traveled to countless locales around the globe. Plus, he always exudes confidence, charm and style.

Together with SM, Marc is redefining cool by embracing urbanism. To further define this latest catchword, here are his thoughts on what it takes to be hip, cool, and of course, a true-blue urbanista.

What defines urbanism?

Urbanism is creating your own sense of style out of good-quality and tasteful pieces. It's a mix of what is stylish and comfortable.

Who would you consider your urban icon?

David Beckham

What would you consider your urban essentials?

Dressy T-shirts and well-cut jeans.

What would you consider a definitive urban item?

A stylish chunky watch.

Describe the ideal outfit for an urbanista's night-out.

A great pair of jeans and a well-cut polo.

Why does the urbanista spirit fit into your wardrobe?

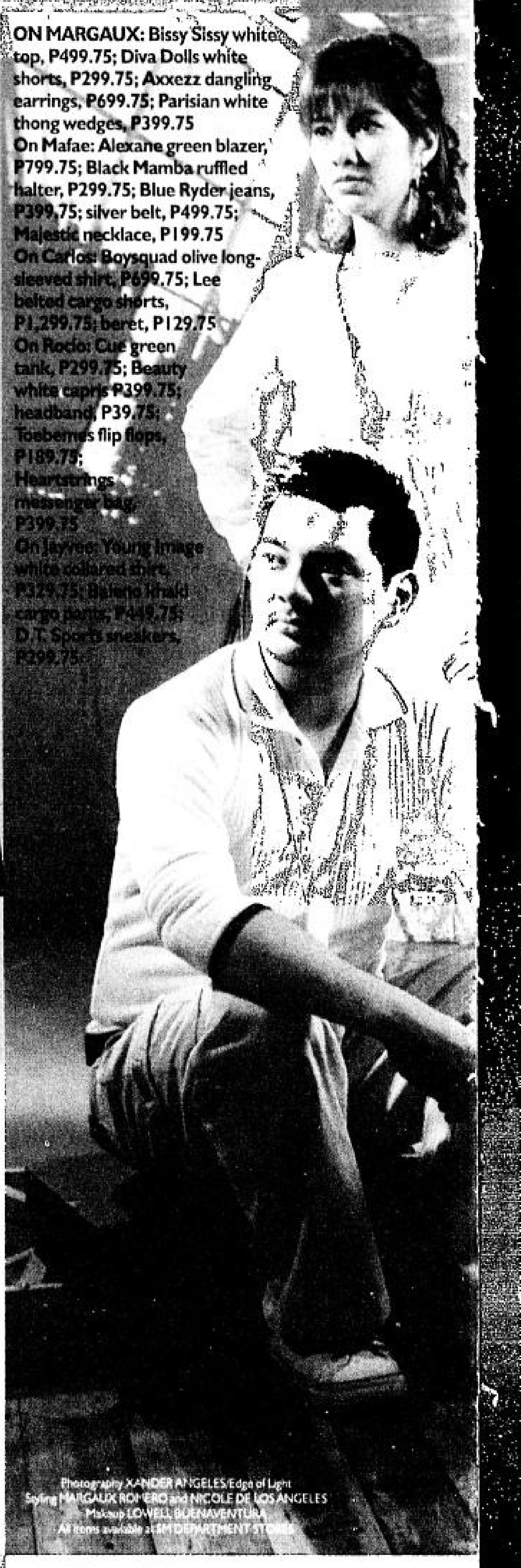
I look at urbanism as something that's all about what suits you without having to sacrifice comfort for style. That makes it easy for one to look great and feel comfortable.

What makes SM the place for urbanistas?

SM is always busy looking for the latest styles and trends—pieces that are stylish and wearable. You'll always look forward to their next big fashion thing the way I do.

Email the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Are you an URBANISTA?



ON MARGAUX: Bissy Sissy white top, P499.75; Diva Dolls white shorts, P299.75; Axxezz dangling earrings, P699.75; Parisian white thong wedges, P399.75
On Mafae: Alexane green blazer, P799.75; Black Mamba ruffled halter, P299.75; Blue Ryder jeans, P399.75; silver belt, P499.75; Majestic necklace, P199.75
On Carlos: Boysquad olive long-sleeved shirt, P699.75; Lee belted cargo shorts, P1,299.75; beret, P129.75
On Rocio: Cue green tank, P299.75; Beauty white capris P399.75; headband, P39.75; Toebemes flip flops, P189.75; Heartstrings messenger bag, P399.75
On Jayvee: Young Image white collared shirt, P379.75; Baleno khaki cargo pants, P449.75; D.T. Sports sneakers, P299.75

Photography XANDER ANGELES/Edge of Light
Styling MARGAUX ROMERO and NICOLE DE LOS ANGELES
Makeup LOWELL BUENAVENTURA
All items available at SM DEPARTMENT STORES

By Allison W. Lopez

WE THOUGHT IT WASN'T ENOU
to redefine it. We call them—dru
pursuing their passions, and livin
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What about you? What kind of "u

Rocio Mari Morato, 33

Sporty urbanista, certified water baby

Padi assistant instructor; owner of Diver's Network

GREYHOUND jacket, P449.75; shorts, P299.75; sports tank, P249.75; white sunglasses, P149.75

Diving is her way of life; the beach, her favorite place in the world. Which is probably why Rocio Morato dresses as if she were still on the beach—well, not exactly in bikinis, though she probably would,if she could.

Her style is comfy and carefree—tank top, denim mini and soft slippers—just perfect to show off her tanned and toned body. Still giddy from a weekend dive in Anilao with her family, Rocio became all the more excited when she saw bikinis being sold at Xander Angeles' studio.

Ask her about diving and she wouldn't stop talking. Her hubby's a fellow diver and instructor, and they've started their daughters in the family sport. The couple runs a dive shop and school in QC, and Rocio constantly arranges dives for her students and friends. Rocio used to row in college—as long as it's related to water, she'll be fine.

Show her a nice bikini, and she'll accessorize it to make it her own. But not with seashells, oh please no.

Fave getup: I look for comfort in the clothes I wear. I'm usually in tank tops or racerback shirts (which I layer sometimes), denim skirts, and I have lots of slippers. I also like tunics and caftans—those with loose silhouettes—for the beach.

Choice accessories: Big belts, wooden bracelets, chunky chandeliers. I also wear glass bead bracelets that I design but which my friend makes for me. I don't wear accessories with seashells.

Food trip: Gummi bears, worms—anything that's Gummi! I also like Japanese—though I don't eat the raw stuff because one of my diver friends told me, "O don't eat those, they're our friends!"

Guilty pleasure: Bikinis! I think I already have 20 of them. I even want to buy another one, I didn't know they were selling some here!

Cool job: I've been assistant diving instructor since September 2005. I can teach but I can't certify you. It's my husband who's a Padi course director who does that.

Hangout: Jill's at the Fort, it's '80s music every Friday night! Well, the beach also—it's my No. 1 favorite place.

Ultimate urbanista: I'll say my good friend Therence Vizconde. She's a fashion designer and she doesn't care what people say or think about her. No-nonsense kind of girl... she has a very functional wardrobe. She's passionate about rubber shoes like rare Pumas that you can't find anywhere!

Why she is an urbanista: I'm sporty; it's the life I choose to live. This is how I am and what I love to do... Being in the ocean all the time doesn't have to make you unfashionable.

Shopping creed: I buy stuff I like, and not what's only in fashion. I love shopping at *ukay-ukay* to look for real great vintage pieces. I love hearing people ask "where did you get that," and I say "*ukay-ukay lang*" and their jaw drops.

Shopping tips: Not everything expensive or branded is great. Look for pieces that are versatile and classic. Having clothes for me is like collecting rare pieces, not just having different clothes to wear every day. It's what I can have for years and still look good in it. So don't get clothes that are too trendy. Lastly, I believe you can never have too many bikinis and good underwear.

Margaux Romero, 21

Style-file urbanista, member of Shopaholics Anonymous

Stylist, communications technology student at Ateneo de Manila University

RED Head red dress, P399.75; necklace, P349.75; Beadworx red bracelet, P199.75; Parisian gold thongs, P399.75

She's the sister we all wish we had.

Stylist Margaux Romero is her family's designated shopper—and neither they nor she could complain because she picks out just the right style.

To her, patience in shopping is a virtue such that she sometimes chooses to skip meals just so she can finish her work. She's a dutiful stylist, always on the prowl for the latest trends and brands. She may have begun as a commercial and ramp model, but now she'd rather dress up the models themselves.

Her thirst for learning doesn't end there. Margaux knows she can learn more about fashion, and perhaps even "professionalize" styling. She's now taking up short fashion design courses in Milan and New York, and is very excited to see what comes out of it.

Whether it's a market or an upscale mall, she has no qualms in scouring and scoring fab finds. It's the ultimate delight for this self-confessed shopaholic—aside from eating pizza, that is.

Fave getup: Now I'm into dresses. They're so easy to wear. Babydoll dresses with flip flops...

Choice accessories: I layer different kinds of necklaces. I also like beachy accessories.

Food trip: Pizza! Any kind! That's why I'm so excited to go to Italy. I wouldn't mind having pizza every day. (And she doesn't get fat!)

Guilty pleasure/s: Shopping for clothes! Sometimes even when I'm already hungry, I still choose to shop if I see a new store I have to check out. Then I'll just eat afterward.

Hangout: I watch a lot of movies. I go to Ponti, too—I love dancing with my girlfriends to hiphop and R&B music.

Ultimate urbanista: I don't think I have a specific "ultimate urbanista," but I admire people who just enjoy expressing themselves through fashion. Fashion should be something you have fun with, something that expresses who you are... not something used to show off or to fit in.

I like the way Sienna Miller dresses, plus Nicole Richie and Mischa Barton.

Why she is an urbanista: I'm very open to trying out new things. The items can be cheap but you can still look stylish. You have to have fun with the stuff that you already have.

Shopping creed: "Have fun when you shop." If you find something that you think will be fun to wear, don't be afraid to try it. It doesn't matter whether it's from Prada or from a *tiangge*... You'll be surprised by how many interesting things you'll discover when you try shopping in new places.

Shopping tips: Just try to grab every opportunity that comes to you. Take a chance, don't be afraid to try new things. If it works for you, then great! Enjoy it! But if it doesn't work out, just watch out for the next opportunity. Whatever happens, you'll learn something from trying. Never let fear stop you.

Like if you're shopping and you find something you like that's within your budget, go ahead and buy it! Be gutsy and try something even if it's different from your normal style. Don't wait till you have to go back for it. You'll regret it and feel much worse if it's not there anymore. So just go for it and enjoy it!

Carlos Concepcion, 22

Artsy urbanista, future actor and designer

Entrepreneurial management student at University of Asia and the Pacific, design trainee under Ino Caluza of Viktor jeans

"Skinny" must be Carlos' favorite term these days. Slim-fit shirts, skinny ties, skinny belts, and skinny jeans are his fashion staple. It's quite tricky to carry, but on a tall and toned bod, you can get away with anything.

He may still be in school, but Carlos is also studying under Viktor jeans designer Ino Caluza, and taking up classes in acting and hosting. He cringes when he sees bankable actors in lousy films, and vows he would not make the same mistake when the time comes.

He may sound like a snob as he converses in English, but he's definitely no fashion snob. He doesn't look down on no-name brands. In fact, he relishes good finds in stores like SM. For an artsy urbanista who's very particular about style, quality and impact, we can't help but trust his fashion instincts.

Fave getup: Skinny jeans from Viktor, slim-fit white tees, and black or white Chucks. I think my look is kinda punk but not the angsty kind.

Choice accessories: Skinny ties, skinny belt—I like skinny! Bracelets and statement pins, too.

Food trip: McDonald's! Sausage Mcmuffin, Double Cheeseburger...

Guilty ple
biz talk show
I also go to th

Cool job:
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stuff. I buy a
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GH TO DEFINE URBANISM, SO WE CHOSE FIVE PEOPLE
n roll, please—the Urbanistas. They love doing their thing,
g their lives. They excel in their own fields, but they're
heir own rhythm and dance to their own groove, because
y are. Comfortable doesn't mean, however, that they'll be
he ones who are so comfortable with getting out of their
plore, excel, experience—exactly what life should be all
yle *and* purpose, and they're our Fab Five Urbanistas.
rbanista" are you?

sure/s: Watching show
, reading women's mags.
gym a lot.
fter I graduate, I want to
trades. I want to be an in-
and a good designer.
Fuzion, I like their
Embassy.
rbanista: Ino Caluza. I
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ire the style of Pharell
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and rockish appeal to it.
his own clothing brand
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n urbanista: I'm a very
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t my own money since
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ties, my plain shirts.
have good fit.
creed: A rule for me
g is to always have in
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things you don't need.
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f you can't forget that
saw, buy it.
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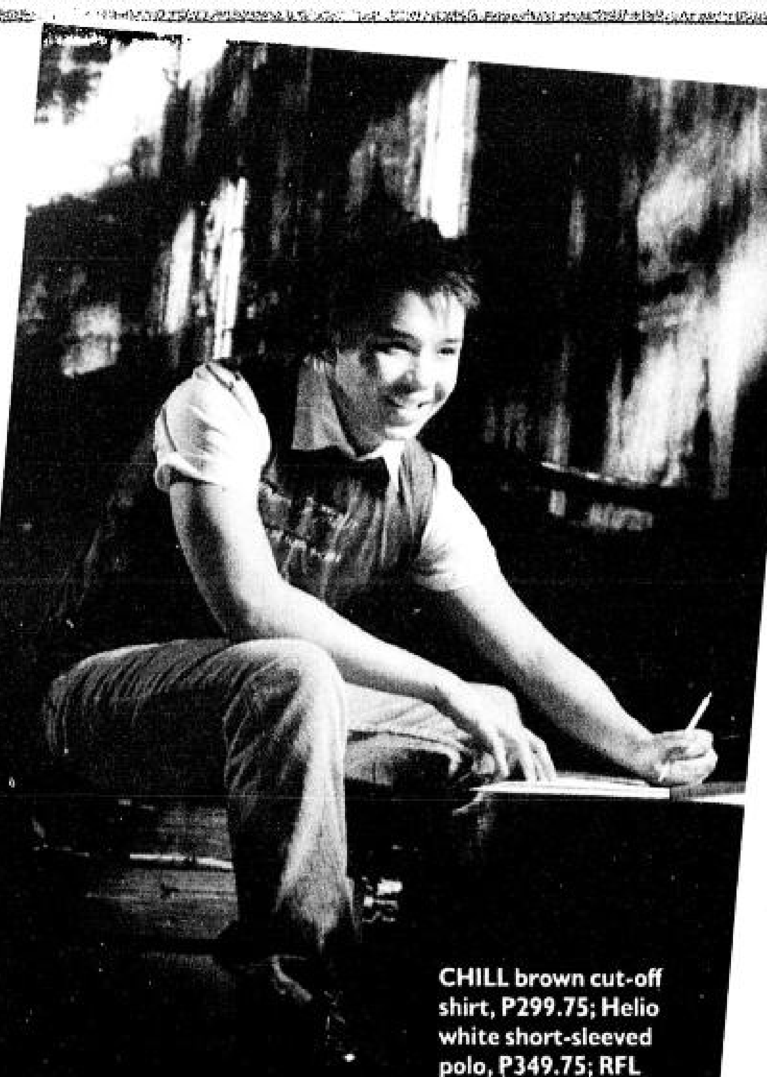
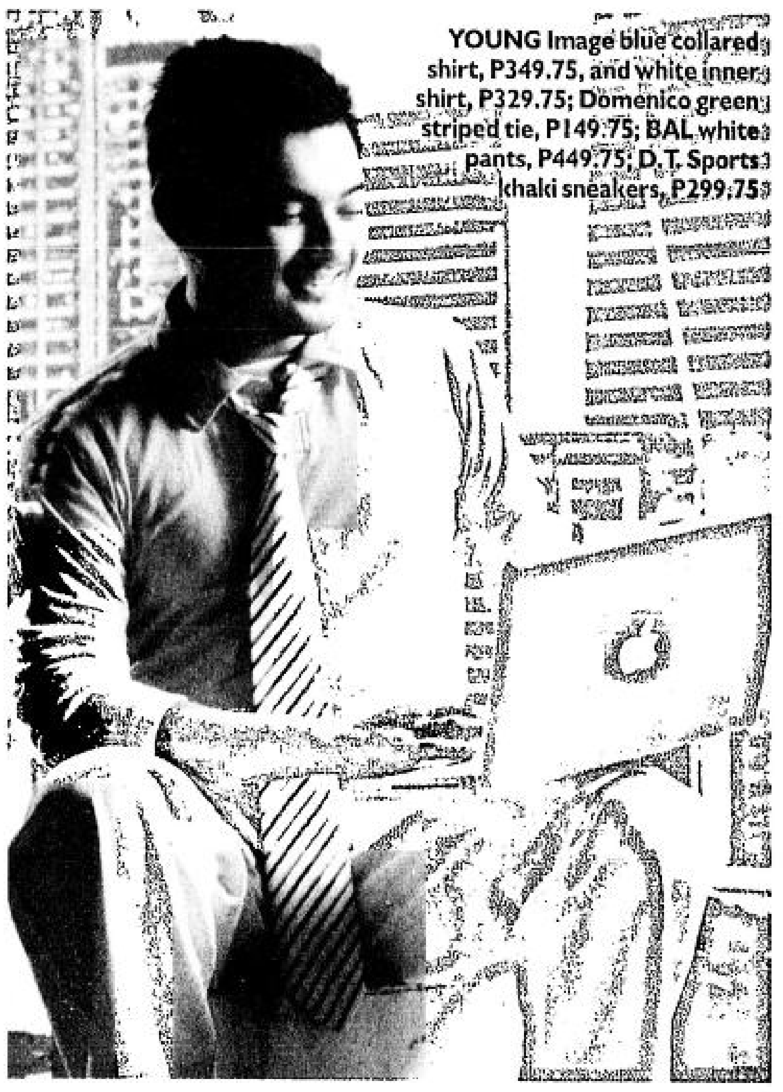


CHILL brown cut-off shirt, P299.75; Helio white short-sleeved polo, P349.75; RFL khaki corduroys, P449.75; army belt, P149.75; Stone Combat boots, P1,149.75

Jayvee Fernandez, 25

Techie urbanista, prolific writer

Managing editor of Mobile Philippines and Game magazines



YOUNG Image blue collared shirt, P349.75, and white inner shirt, P329.75; Domenico green striped tie, P149.75; BAL white pants, P449.75; D.T. Sports khaki sneakers, P299.75

Without the glasses or the disheveled mop of hair, Jayvee is so unlike the nerd stereotype. In fact, he's the first to admit he even resembles Mr. Bean, that lovable British character with an IQ of 50.

But if you check the multi-pockets of his cargo, you'll realize he is a geek! As editor of HIP's Mobile Philippines and Game magazines, Jayvee brings along pounds and pounds of the latest thingamajigs to test-drive.

He himself is mobile. His work takes him anywhere—well, so long as there's Internet access. As such, this techie dresses utilitarian with a pinch of personal style. Lately, he's gone out of the fashion box by experimenting with colors.

But nothing can beat his real accessories—laptops, handhelds, game consoles... What more can a guy ask for?

Fave getup: Lately I've been into pastel shirts. I had this phase where I only wore black, but that's over now. I like shirts that fit me well, so I choose slim-fit. Also cargo pants, because of the many pockets where I can stash my gadgets.

Choice accessories: Watch and anti-poverty white band from Rock Ed

Food trip: I love hotel breakfast buffets. Breakfast is my favorite meal of the day. I also go for Japanese and Italian.

Guilty pleasure/s: Aside from gadgets, it would be watching soap operas with my mom, because that's what I catch on TV when I get home.

Cool job: Aside from getting to road-test the latest, mouthwatering gadgets, Jayvee is also a professional blogger—not the journal type of blogger. "I provide content for websites on mobile technology. I also do technical writing on business. It pays really well."

Hangout: PowerBooks, the mall... I love watching movies. And I'm a girl when I shop. I really look for the right fit, and it takes me long.

Ultimate urbanista: Being a geek, we all thought that Steve Jobs was the epitome of cool attire, so that's why I always wore a black top and jeans.

Fast forward to now... I remember reading an article about how you can adapt Johnny Depp's eccentric clothing style to match yours. I've always been eclectic with the way I dress, but I would want to accent myself with something from a different era. Bowler hats, a cane—with my laptop. Wow, that would be cool.

Why he is an urbanista: I'm not tied to the office—my job is experiential. I can do my job almost anywhere, as long as there's WiFi. So with my clothes, I always look for comfort.

Shopping creed: "Keep away from black." I had an epiphany at the start of the year. A lot of people say I can carry light pastel colors in pink and lime green, and not a lot of guys can, apparently. So I take advantage of this to match my "always happy" personality and stay away from dismal black.

Shopping tips: The two most important articles for the techie urbanista are the pants and your gadget bag. For pants, you may opt to grab a pair of cargos or any loose pants so that your gadgets don't bulge out of your pants (and give other people the wrong impression).

For bags, I suggest getting something sturdy and water-resistant. Don't opt for backpacks if you have a huge laptop weighing more than 5 lb, because it will strain your back. Messenger bags are the safest way to go. Rule of thumb—the bag must be able to fit a laptop, cables, and a camera—that's how you know it is big (or small) enough.

Mafae Yunon Belasco, 24

Mommy urbanista, forever beauty queen

Full-time model, full-time mom to three boys, childcare management student

VELVET top, P449.75; velvet satin skirt, P649.75; Beadworx gold necklaces, P249.75 each; silver-copper bag, P399.75

Isn't she the prettiest thing?

At 5'9", chances are tall and slender ramp model Mafae Belasco would not be mistaken for a mom. She may look familiar—after all, she ran away with the Binibining Pilipinas World 2003 title, and with basketball star Nick Belasco in her arms—but as a mom? To three boys?!

To this she'll probably reply, "Hellur?!" Her Aussie twang can be attributed to the fact that she migrated there when she was 6, and came back only in 2003 for the local pageant.

Beauty is in her blood—her aunt, Desiree Verdadero, is a former beauty queen herself. But the twentysomething mom isn't about to rely on her looks alone for her future. She's now studying childcare management at home, and plans to put up a daycare center in the US when her family settles there permanently.

Her pageant motto? "Time + productivity = success. You have to work hard to achieve something." For Mafae, everything's so much sweeter if you work for it.

Fave getup: Shorts, tank top, slippers. My look is very casual.

Choice accessories: Big hoop earrings and my wedding ring. I also have a necklace with pictures of my sons.

Guilty pleasure/s: I'm very strict when it comes to my diet, but sometimes I join my kids in eating junk food! I love grocery shopping, too. It takes me 1½ hours to do it every week.

Cool job: I'm a mom and a model. Lately I've been busy with a lot of projects, probably because I'm now at my thinnest (after motherhood). I was very excited about Bench (the underwear show), because it was my first time to do that.

Hangout: Greenbelt. We watch movies at Rockwell (a stone's throw away from their home).

Ultimate urbanista: It would have to be my auntie, Desiree Verdadero, because she always knows where and how to shop for cheap and good quality items. She can find clothing in small markets that you are able to see in branded and expensive stores, and the patience she has in shopping is something I admire because she doesn't settle for the first thing she sees. And that's exactly how I am when I go shopping.

Why she is an urbanista: I'm not really a "brand" person. Every time I shop, I feel guilty when I splurge. I just save my money and spend it on my kids.

I'm a very practical shopper. I go for quality and how it looks—it doesn't have to be branded. I window-shop at the expensive brands, and look for something similar in other stores, like SM.

Shopping creed: "Never settle for something you see first. Shop around and you are bound to find the right thing for the right price!"

Shopping tips: As a mother and a model, I am stuck between two worlds that are totally different—"mommy" being conservative, and "model," wild and fashionable. But being the person that I am, I've adjusted my sense of style and shopping to meet both worlds.

When shopping for your children, buy them clothes that are two sizes bigger so they last longer. I have them altered to their size then re-alter again when they need the pants longer.

Shopping for myself, I tend to be the last person on my list because I alter my clothes to the current fashion—for example, cutting a T-shirt to make it off-the-shoulder.

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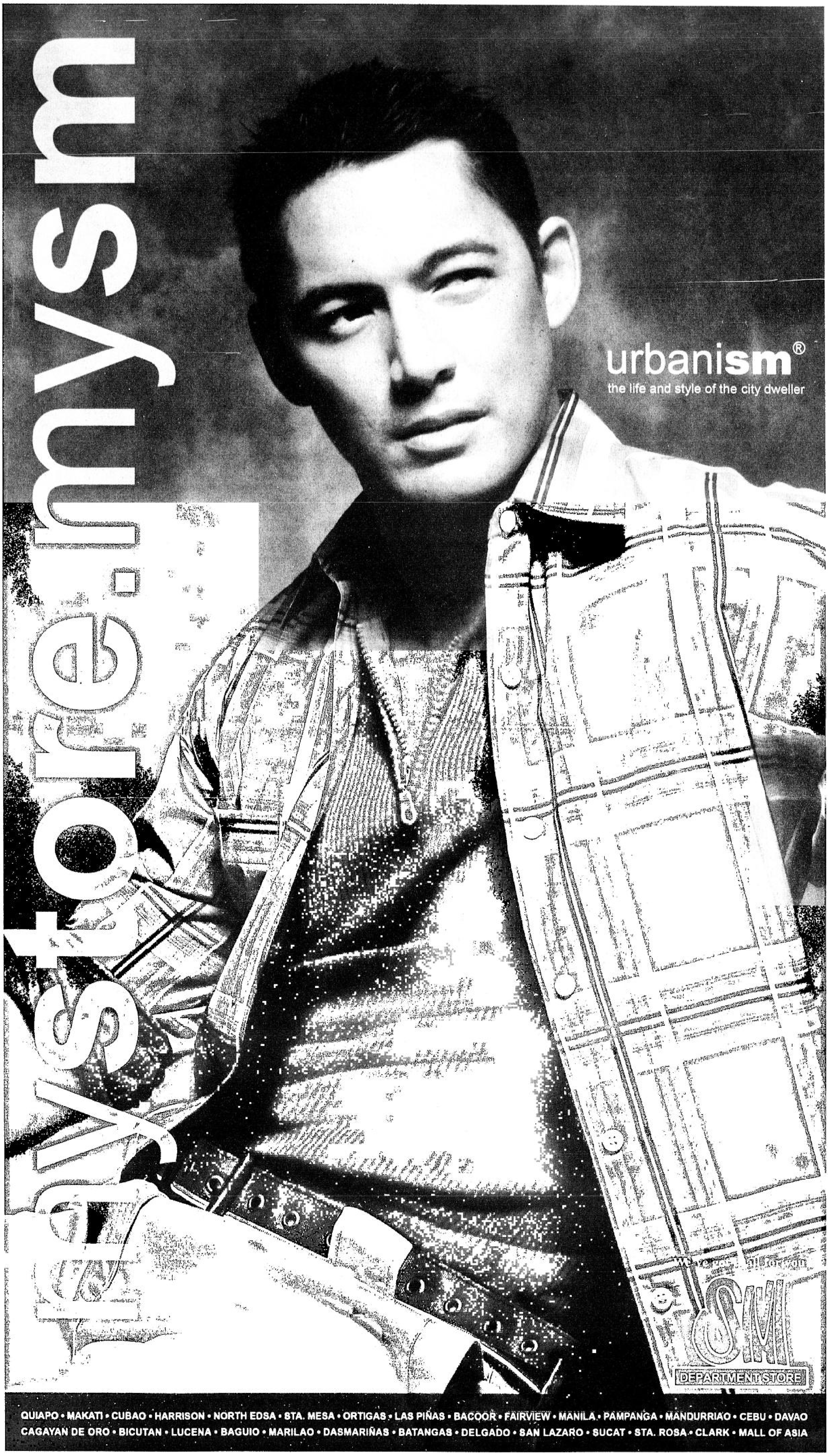
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National Telecommunications Commission

27th anniversary

Elevating the Philippines as a leading ICT-driven economy in Asia

A positive change for the telecoms industry

The relentless barrage of promotions by major telephone companies and cell phone carriers in the country that caused the dramatic drop of rates of calls and text messages and even the cost of mobile devices to the benefit of consumers is a welcome development to Commissioner Ronald Olivar Solis of the National Telecommunications Commission.

A POSITIVE/ H2

Nokia introduces the Nokia N91 for a true mobile music experience

Storage for up to 3000 songs, plus smartphone functionality in an ultra-portable package

Manila, Philippines - Nokia recently introduced the Nokia N91 multimedia, the company's latest device optimized for mobile music consumption. With room for up to 3000 songs on the integrated 4-gigabyte hard disk, the Nokia N91 delivers a premier music experience.

In addition, the industry standard 3.5mm stereo headset jack and easy transfer of music files from your PC help make the Nokia N91 a connected mobile jukebox. Encased in stainless steel, the Nokia N91 has dedicated music keys on its face, which slide down to reveal the phone keypad. The Nokia N91 is a part of the new Nokia Nseries range, bringing you the latest multimedia technologies and smartphone functionalities. "The Nokia N91 delivers both a fantastic music experience and cutting-edge phone features," said Parikshit Bhasin, country general manager, Nokia Philippines. "What sets the Nokia N91 apart is the fact that it is always connected - you can download new music while on the move, add it to your favorite playlist and then share your playlist with friends. It's truly the world's best mobile connected jukebox."

Listen to music

The Nokia N91 serves up to 12.5 hours of great sound via the included stereo headset with remote control. Enjoying your music collection has never been easier, as the Nokia N91 supports a wide range of digital music formats including MP3, M4A, AAC and WMA.

Nokia N91 is compatible with a number of accessories from industry leading brands Bose(R), Harman Kardon(r), JBL(r), and Sennheiser. In addition to using their favorite audio accessories with the Nokia N91 through its standard 3.5mm jack, consumers can maximize their audio experience by choosing products from a line-up of Nokia tested and recommended audio accessories*.

Get music

Packed with multiple connectivity options, such as WCDMA, WLAN and Bluetooth wireless technology, the Nokia N91 makes it easy for you to find and enjoy music when and where you want. With the Nokia N91, you can quickly and easily find and purchase music over the air to your device from your operator's music store.

Manage music

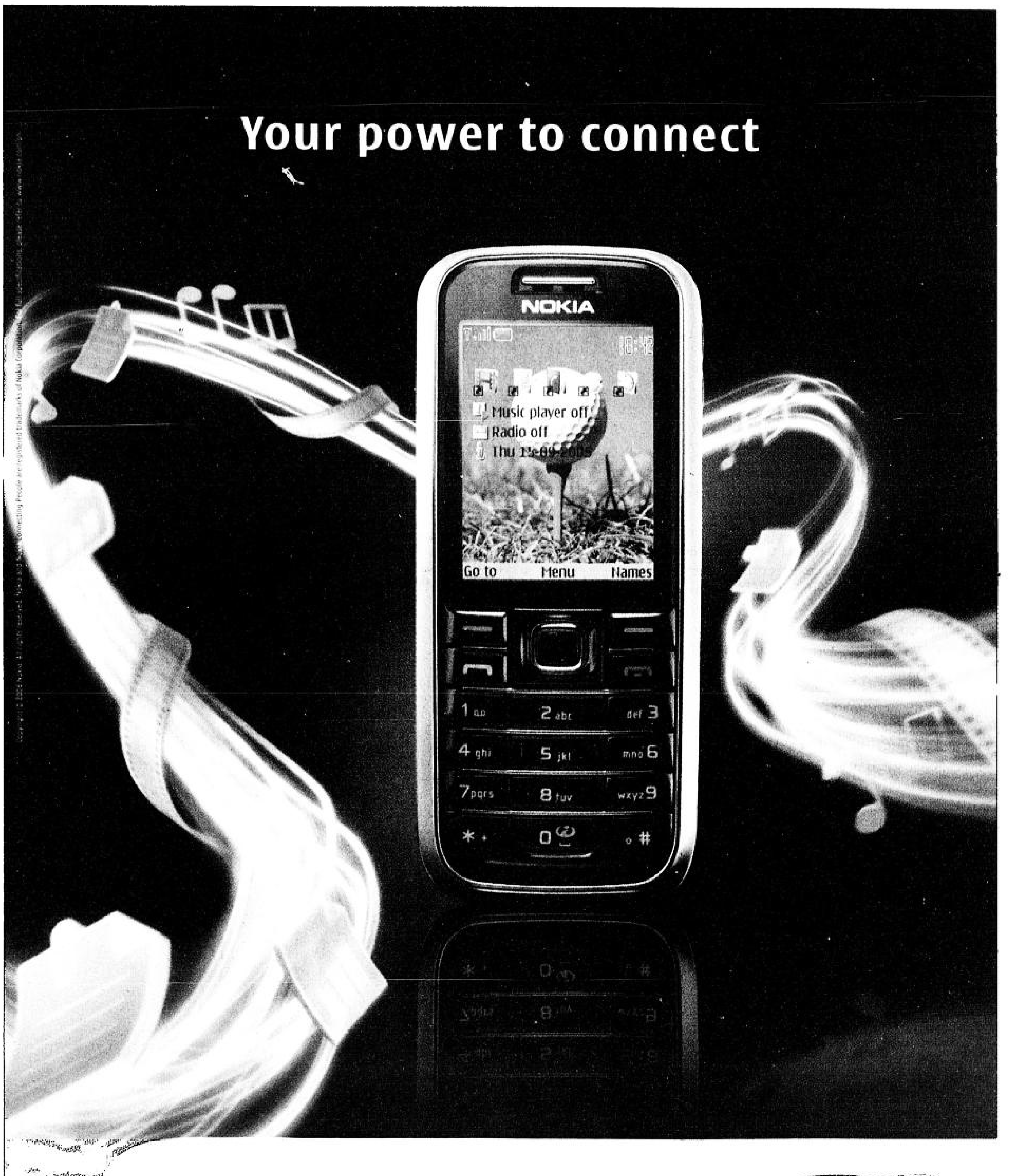
Drag and drop your personal music collection from your PC to your Nokia N91 or synchronize your recent music purchases with your PC via USB 2.0. You can also create and manage your playlists directly on your Nokia N91, or shuffle songs around to build your optimal listening experience.

Share music

A revolutionary feature of the Nokia N91 is the possibility to share your playlists with friends by multimedia message, e-mail or Bluetooth. Proudly show off your musical taste or simply share the latest songs that have been stuck in your head. The Nokia N91 also contains the latest multimedia technologies and smartphone functionalities, including a 2 megapixel camera for print-quality photos, e-mail support, a full web browser and video sharing.

*The Nokia tested and recommended industry leading accessories for Nokia N91 include:

Sennheiser PX 100, 200, PMX 40, and PMX 60 mini headphones, PXC 150, 250, and 300 NoiseGard(TM) active noise-cancelling mini headphones and the HD465, 485, 515, 555, 595 audiophile headphones, JBL Duet(TM), OnTour(TM), Creature II(r), and Encounter(TM) speaker systems, Harman Kardon Soundsticks II(r) speaker system, Bose QuietComfort (r) 2 Acoustic Noise Canceling headphones and TriPort headphones



Business meets pleasure, power balances with leisure in the newest 3G mobile phone from Nokia, the Nokia 6233.

- **3G (WCDMA) and GSM triband transceiver supports seamless globe trotting***
- **2 Megapixel Camera and high definition 2" QVGA 262K-color display**
- **MP3 Player, FM Radio and Stereo speakers for high-fidelity music enjoyment**
- **64MB MicroSD included (supports up to 2GB MicroSD cards)**
- **Sleek stylish design with stainless steel trim**

Experience the Power of 3G. Stream, surf and e-mail with the Nokia 6233.

*Korea excluded

www.nokia.com.ph/6233

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3rd Level Digital Exchange
Glorietta, Makati
752-8543

Nokia Store Robinsons Manila
3rd Level Robinsons
Mall; Manila
526-6703

Nokia Store Morato
G/F Landsberg Place,
Tomas Morato, Quezon City
373-7110 to 13

Nokia Store Robinsons Galleria
G/F Robinsons Galleria
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong
637-6423

Nokia Store Festival
3rd Level Festival Mall
Filinvest, Muntinlupa
772-5117 or 850-8487

Nokia Store SM Davao
3rd Level SM Mall
Davao City
(082) 297-5807

Nokia Store North Edsa
G/F Cyberzone
SM Mall North Edsa, Quezon City
426-7990

Nokia Store Tacloban City
Salazar St., Tacloban City
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Buy only at authorized Nokia outlets. For inquiries. call the Nokia Careline at (02) 886-1234.

Messages

Warmest congratulations to the officials and staff of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) as you celebrate your 27th Anniversary.

As the regulatory agency tasked to ensure a reliable, affordable and viable information and communications services to our people, the NTC serves as a vital cog in promoting the Philippines as a hub of information and communications technology in this part of Asia.

You are truly doing our countrymen a great service through your effective supervision, adjudication and control of all telecommunications services and in leading our country into the information age. I am confident that you will continue to promote consumer welfare under a healthy, competitive, liberalized and privatized environment.

May we all work hand in hand in beating the odds and in narrowing the digital divide for the benefit of our people.

Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the men and women of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) as you celebrate your 27th Year Anniversary on July 17-21, 2006.

The NTC plays a pivotal role in supporting the development of our country's information and communications technology (ICT) by providing an environment that ensures reliable, affordable and viable communications infrastructure and services.

Your accomplishments for the past 27 years manifested your unwavering commitment in forging a healthy relationship that foster cooperation between the government and the various stakeholders in the ICT industry.

We, in the Department of Transportation and Communications (DoTC) recognize your significant role in leading the country's ICT towards stability and growth. May this auspicious event inspire you even more to affirm your commitment in serving the public.

Wishing you all a meaningful and fruitful anniversary.

Mabuhay!

Leandro R. Mendoza
Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communications

The Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) congratulates the National Telecommunications Commission on its 27th Anniversary as it celebrates 27 years of committed service to the Filipino people.

The dynamism of the telecommunications sector has dramatically changed our lives over the years. Our means of communications have never been the same as technological innovations have constantly improved products and services in the telecoms industry. Thus, geographical and physical boundaries have been minimized as we can now keep in touch beyond the conventional means such as snail mails and a landline.

The CICT recognizes the hard work that NTC has been undertaking as Government's regulating body for the telecommunications industry in the country. With the continued expansion and progress of the telecommunications sector, the NTC has strived to improve communications services provided by the industry to the people. These efforts have helped usher the Philippines into the Digital Age.

May NTC's 27th Anniversary celebration continue to inspire its officials and staff to optimize the many opportunities available in the telecoms industry.

Mabuhay!

Ramon P. Sales
Commission on Information and
Communications Technology
Office of the President of the Philippines

NTC COMMISSIONER Ronald Solis with deputy commissioners, the regional directors and department heads

A positive change for the telecoms industry

From page H1

Solis is proud of the fact that NTC, the government agency tasked to regulate the telecommunications industry, has contributed a big part in making this scenario happen.

SOLIS speaks at the PCTA Convention

A year ago, the NTC made a landmark ruling on the case of Sun Cellular's "24/7" promotion making available unlimited texting to Sun subscribers, which Smart and Globe Telecom heavily contested, accusing Sun of predatory and discriminatory pricing.

"We refused to stop the '24/7' promotion of Sun," said Solis. "If we had agreed on the argument of Smart and Globe Telecom that it should be stopped because Sun couldn't comply with a grade of service requirement, then this unlimited texting service offered now by these companies wouldn't be here. Probably up to now, we would still be paying P8 per minute call or P1 per text."

"We believe at that point in time that there was a market for unlimited service. We likened it to an airline service. If a passenger can only afford this amount and he just wants to get to his destination without the frills, he would opt for economy. But if he could afford to pay more and want extras, then he could opt for business class."

Drastic drop in call rates

The NTC decision was proven right; there was indeed a market for unlimited texting alone and a big one at that. In a matter of months, Sun's subscribers grew literally by leaps and bounds. Smart, which eventually withdrew its petition to stop Sun's promo, and Globe Telecom joined the bandwagon and started coming out with their own versions of the unlimited texting promo.

Solis also credits the agency for the drastic drop in rates of calls abroad with the ruling NTC came out regarding VoIP, a technology allowing for voice calls to run on the cheaper structure of the Internet. NTC clarified that VoIP is a value-added service and thus can be offered not only by the telephone companies but by other enterprises such as Internet service providers.

"Even before we issued the circular saying VoIP is a value-added service, Bayantel first came out with the announcement offering calls abroad for 8 cents a minute. Now everybody's dropping their rates."

Solis was appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in January 2004. Since his appointment as NTC Commissioner, the agency has produced a number of circulars defining and clarifying the guidelines that concerned industries should abide by.

"We're very transparent. We explain to the public what we do. Every memorandum circular that we issue, it goes through a process of consultations. As we go along the consultations, we make pronouncements, we come out with explanatory notes and memorandums, so the public is being made aware why we're coming out with these guidelines."

Recently, the NTC was among the top 10 state-owned firms and financial institutions listed by the Institute of Corporate Directors as having the highest scores in good governance.

Protecting consumers

The electronic era that defines the way people live today has made the telecommunications world a very dynamic place for progress, research and development. New ideas and new technologies keep coming out.

Solis said NTC's role today is more crucial than ever, particularly in protecting the consumers and at the same time encouraging the telecommunications industries to grow.

As NTC chair, Solis has a number of projects and programs up his sleeve—mostly to modernize the institution so it can exercise its powers more effectively and serve the public more effectively too.

The NTC is pushing for the institution's complete computerization. The five-year computerization program called eNTC will cost P550 million. Its phase I with an initial costing of P15.25 million has already been awarded to partners GeoSpatial Solutions Inc and Philkoei International Inc.

> 'We're very transparent. We explain to the public what we do. Every memorandum circular that we issue, it goes through a process of consultations. As we go along the consultations, we make pronouncements, we come out with explanatory notes and memorandums, so the public is being made aware why we're coming out with these guidelines'

"Three years from now, you won't find a long queue of liaison officers at the NTC office. They can apply and be issued permits online. They can pay online for the fees. Examinations for radio operators can be done online. The entire frequency spectrum is for all to see online, you can see at a glance what frequencies are still available."

The NTC reorganization bill, when passed into law, will make NTC stronger "structurally, functionally and financially," according to Solis. A key feature of this law is to make NTC Commissioners work under a fixed term of seven years. The bill also allows for the agency to have fiscal autonomy, with at least 30 percent of NTC yearly revenue allotted to NTC funds to finance modernization projects, equipment, and to send its people abroad for training.

"We need these changes. We receive criticisms for not being able to monitor the telecommunications companies, but how could we do that when we do not even have the rudimentary monitoring equipment because we do not have the money to buy them," said Solis.

Giving back good graces

These days, Solis is busy preparing for NTC's 27th anniversary celebrations. He already finished a report about NTC's accomplishments and plans that he will present before the heads of broadcast and telecommunications companies and other allied enterprises in a CEO Forum.

Solis, who had spent 17 years in private law practice before becoming NTC Commissioner (his last stint was in the partnership Solis and Medina), finds working in government as a means to contribute something back to the society and also a learning experience.

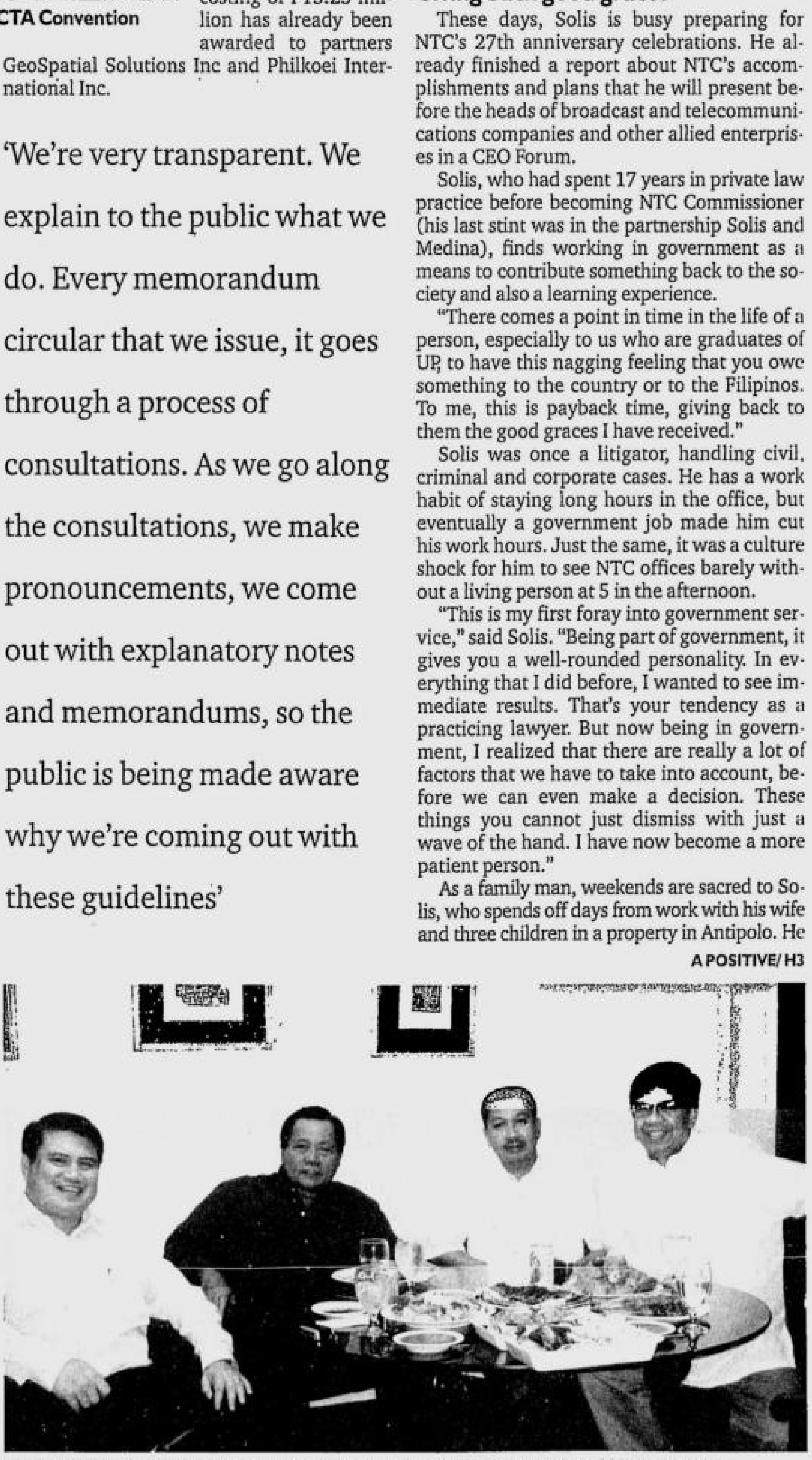
"There comes a point in time in the life of a person, especially to us who are graduates of UP, to have this nagging feeling that you owe something to the country or to the Filipinos. To me, this is payback time, giving back to them the good graces I have received."

Solis was once a litigator, handling civil, criminal and corporate cases. He has a work habit of staying long hours in the office, but eventually a government job made him cut his work hours. Just the same, it was a culture shock for him to see NTC offices barely without a living person at 5 in the afternoon.

"This is my first foray into government service," said Solis. "Being part of government, it gives you a well-rounded personality. In everything that I did before, I wanted to see immediate results. That's your tendency as a practicing lawyer. But now being in government, I realized that there are really a lot of factors that we have to take into account, before we can even make a decision. These things you cannot just dismiss with just a wave of the hand. I have now become a more patient person."

As a family man, weekends are sacred to Solis, who spends off days from work with his wife and three children in a property in Antipolo. He

A POSITIVE/ H3



TRANSPORTATION Secretary Leandro Mendoza with Solis (left) and NTC deputy commissioners Jaime Fortes, Jr. and Jorge Sarmiento

A positive change for the telecoms industry

From page H2

would often cook for his children, two girls and a son, or to friends and visitors. He prepares dishes based on the mood of his children. "They're very fond of my steak. I'll either broil it or pan-fry it. They also love my pasta. Sometimes they would like to eat Indian food, I'd cook curry. Sometimes they would like to eat Japanese food, so I'd cook *teppanyaki*."

A home body

The Antipolo residence is the family's weekend hideaway, a house situated in the middle of a mango orchard, surrounded by trees and greenery. "That's where I recharge. I'm a typical Cancer, a home body who loves to spend time with his kids."

The NTC is a hotbed for a lot of disputes among competing companies; the industry's playing field is highly competitive. Solis often finds himself in the middle of the disputes when the NTC decisions are severely questioned.

"I'm not new to this thing," said Solis. "I just play a different role. Whereas before I was an advocate, now I act like a magistrate. If they are not satisfied with our decisions, they can always make an appeal. So far, there aren't any major reversals in the court of appeals or in the appellate courts with regard to the cases these companies lodged against our decisions."

Solis has a number of memorable disputes that he admitted made some of his hair grow "white." So far, though, he's happy with the positive changes not only happening at the NTC but at the whole industry itself.

"The way I look at it, whatever we have done so far would speak more eloquently than what we can tell you," said Solis.

NTC officials and officers and members of the Telecommunications and Broadcast Attorneys of the Philippines (Telebap) sign the NTC Rules of Practice and Procedures

Technologies shaping telecoms industry highlight of NTC anniversary

NEED TO KNOW THE LATEST IN VOIP OR digital radio broadcasting in the Philippines? Want to take a sneak peek into RFID (electronic tags imbedded in a product), digital TV, Wi-fi and Wi-max and 3G technologies? Interested at the possibility of the convergence of fixed and mobile applications? Or just want to know the latest spam threat to your e-mail?

Get a first hand crack at these emerging technologies in broadcast and telecommunications at the seminars and activities lined up by the National Telecommunications Commission to celebrate its 27th anniversary from July 17 to 21.

Topics of the seminars to be conducted by resource persons from the respective fields of expertise include RFID, mobile television, fixed-mobile convergence, IP in the Sky, fees and charges imposed by the NTC, IPv6 and ENUM (IP numbering), spam and related threats, broadcast rules, and 2006 NTC rules of practice and procedures.

NTC's anniversary celebrations will also include a CEO forum where NTC officials will report on the current state of the telecommunications industry and on the accomplishments of the commission in the past year to heads of the telecom and broadcast companies.

"Definitely our report will include what we have done on 3G, VoIP, broadband wireless access, digital TV, digital radio," said NTC commissioner Ronald Solis. He added the NTC will report on its efforts to regain an administration seat in the International Telecommunications Union.

NTC deputy commissioner Jaime Fortes said a lot of new standards in technologies in use in telecommunications for the region are developed in the ITU. "We will need to have a say in those standards."

NTC deputy commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said the inclusion of the NTC at the ITU will benefit not only the industry but the country as well. "We want to be there. We want to make sure that we also protect the interest of the Philippines and of the region."

During the weeklong anniversary celebrations, broadcast and telecommunications companies will also set up booths inside the NTC compound to showcase their latest offerings and technologies to the public. Smart, Globe, Sun, eStandard, TNRI Telecom, Cable Boss and SkyCable are some of the companies who will join the exhibit.

NTC Commissioner Ronald Solis said the agency will report on the amendments on NTC's rules of practice and regulations with a signing of memorandum of agreement with Telebap, the organization of broadcast and telecommunications lawyers practicing in the NTC.

Part of the NTC anniversary are fun activities for the employees of the NTC, such as a fun run, basketball tournament, and a talent search contest called "NTC Idol." There will also be "Serbisyo Muna", a free medical mission to be conducted on NTC's grounds which will benefit *barangays* located near the agency.

The technology seminars are free of charge to students. For more information, call NTC at 926-7722 or log on to http://www.ntc.gov.ph.

Part of the NTC anniversary are fun activities for the employees of the NTC, such as a fun run, basketball tournament, and a talent search contes called 'NTC Idol'

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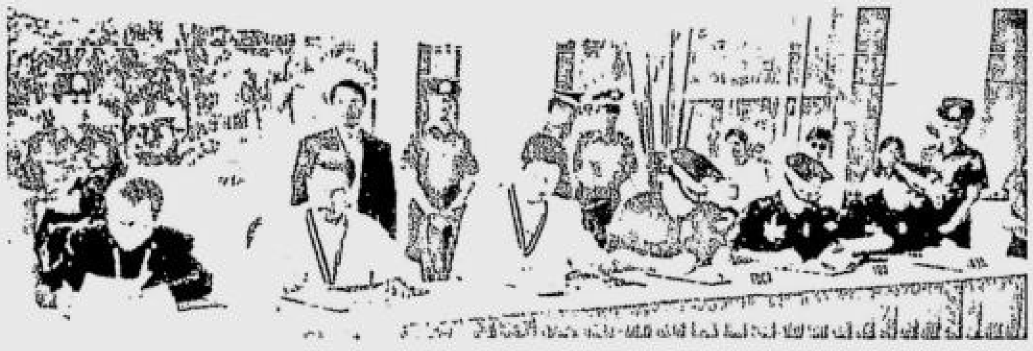
NTC and PNP drive against cellphone theft a success



NTC forged an agreement with the Philippine National Police to jointly combat the proliferation of nefarious and criminal activities related to cell phones. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into by and between the Commission and the Philippine National Police was signed April 24.

> 'To ensure transparency of the operation, the confiscated cell phones are put in transparent plastic bags, are properly documented, and are turned over to a custodian'

CELL PHONE STORES AND CELL PHONE TECHNICIANS who still do not have a license to operate from the National Telecommunications Commission, beware.

In a bid to combat the spread of criminal activities related to cell phones, the NTC with the Philippine National Police have conducted six successful operations against business establishments selling and servicing cell phones without the benefit of legal permits from the NTC or are engaged in selling stolen cell phones.

The operations, tagged "Oplan Cellphone," a joint activity between the NTC and the PNP, have resulted in the apprehension of 87 cell phone business establishments in Market!Market!, Metropolis Mall, Riverbanks Mall, Morayta Mall, and Robinsons Manila.

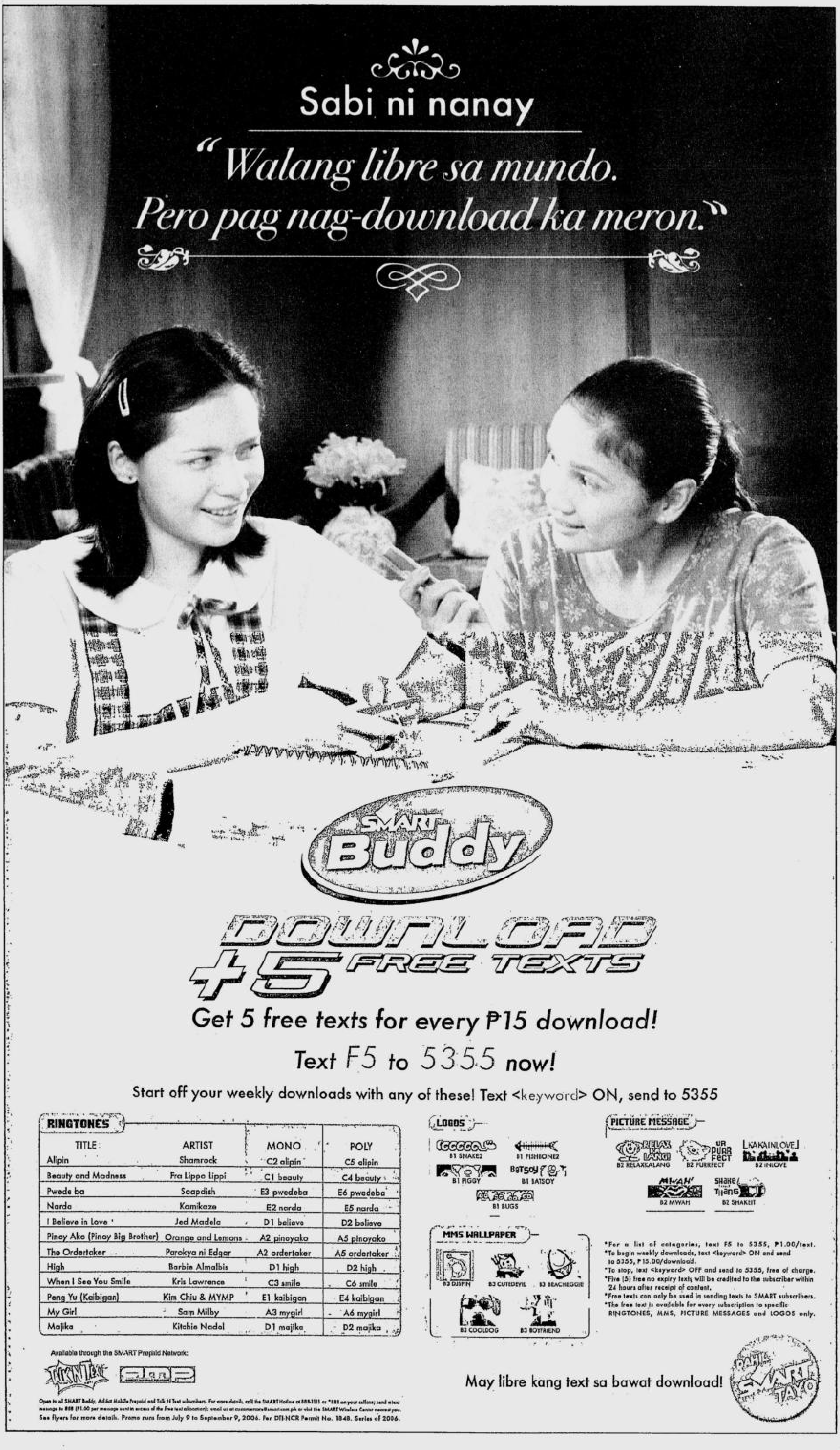
NTC Commissioner Ronald Solis said a total of 310 cell phones ranging from the high-end, second hand, to reconditioned have been confiscated and administrative cases were filed by the NTC against the owners of the apprehended stores.

Solis said the action of the NTC and the PNP has resulted in the registration and licensing of 560 stall owners engaged in selling and servicing cell phones, which translated into a P1.9-million revenue for the NTC.

Solis said the team composition of the Oplan Cellphone operatives include NTC and PNP personnel, who act according to the rules under the memorandum of agreement between the NTC and the PNP. "To ensure transparency of the operation, the confiscated cell phones are put in transparent plastic bags, are properly documented, and are turned over to a custodian," said Solis.

NTC regional director Delilah Deles, who was among those who formed Oplan Cellphone, said owners of stores selling cell phones found violating the NTC memorandum on the purchase and sale of mobile phones are imposed stiff penalties. A P5,000 penalty will be imposed on a cell phone store who acquires its phones from an illegal source; a P5,000 penalty on a store found selling phones without NTC acceptance labels or stickers; and a P5,000 fine on a store operating without a valid NTC permit. The P5,000 is charged per unit of cell phone confiscated or a violation.

Deles said since the NTC and the PNP started its Oplan Cellphone early this year, the PNP has reported a decrease in crimes related to cell phones. Deles said Oplan Cellphone has lined up a number of establishments to visit these coming months.



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Beauty and Madness	Fra Lippo Lippi	C1 beauty	C4 beauty
Pwede ba	Soapdish	E3 pwedeba	E6 pwedeba
Narda	Kamikaze	E2 narda	E5 narda
I Believe in Love	Jed Madela	D1 believe	D2 believe
Pinoy Ako (Pinoy Big Brother)	Orange and Lemons	A2 pinoyako	A5 pinoyako
The Ordertaker	Parokya ni Edgar	A2 ordertaker	A5 ordertaker
High	Barbie Almalbis	D1 high	D2 high
When I See You Smile	Kris Lawrence	C3 smile	C6 smile
Peng Yu (Kaibigan)	Kim Chiu & MYMP	E1 kaibigan	E4 kaibigan
My Girl	Sam Milby	A3 mygirl	A6 mygirl
Majika	Kitchie Nadal	D1 majika	D2 majika

LOGOS
B1 SNAKE2
B1 FISHBONE2
B1 PIGGY
B1 BATSOY
B1 BUGS

PICTURE MESSAGE
B2 RELAXKALANG
B2 PURRFECT
B2 INLOVE
B2 MWAH
B2 SHAKEIT

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TO DATE, six joint operations with the PNP have been conducted, resulting in the apprehension of 87 business establishments and 310 cell phones confiscated.

About The NTC

Our Mission

"The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is a regulatory agency providing an environment that ensures reliable, affordable and viable infrastructure and services in information and communications technology (ICT) accessible to all."

Our Vision

"The NTC is a dynamic and transparent regulatory agency that will elevate the Philippines as a leading ICT-driven economy in Asia."

Introduction

The National Telecommunications Commission is the government agency created under Executive Order No. 546 promulgated on July 23, 1979, and conferred with regulatory and quasi-judicial functions taken over from the Board of Communications and the Telecommunications Control Bureau which were abolished in the same Order.

Primarily, the NTC is the sole body that exercises jurisdiction over the supervision, adjudication and control over all telecommunications services throughout the country. For the effective enforcement of this responsibility, it adopts and promulgates such guidelines, rules, and regulations relative to the establishment operation and maintenance of various telecommunications facilities and services nationwide.

Although independent, in so far as its regulatory and quasi-judicial functions are concerned, the NTC remains under the administrative supervision of the Department of Transportation and Communication as an attached agency. However, with respect to its quasi-judicial functions, NTC's decisions are appealable only and directly to the Supreme Court.

National Telecommunications Commission

27th anniversary

Elevating the Philippines as a leading ICT-driven economy in Asia

Pushing for an ICT-driven economy

New information and communication technologies espoused by the NTC will pave the way for the country to become a leader in ICT

THE ELECTRONIC ERA WE NOW LIVE IN today has spawned a number of technologies currently in early stage of utilization or subject to planning and study in broadcast and telecommunications industries. The National Telecommunications Commission, which plays a very important role of providing an environment for a reliable, affordable and viable infrastructure and services in information and communications technology (ICT), has been giving focus on these new technologies.

These technologies will eventually shape the landscape of information and communication industries in the country and the NTC has the vision to elevate the Philippines as a leading ICT-driven economy in Asia.

VoIP

Have you ever wondered why the cost of calls abroad went down drastically in the past two years? Well, thanks to the introduction of the VoIP technology that allowed for voice calls to be carried over the cheaper network of the Internet.

Short for Voice over Internet Protocol, the VoIP employs both hardware and software. It enables people to use the Internet as the transmission medium for telephone calls by sending voice data in packets using IP rather than by traditional circuit transmissions of the PSTN or public switched telephone network. PSTN is the concentration of the world's public circuit-switched telephone networks.

The advantage of this technology is that telephone calls over the Internet do not incur a surcharge beyond what the user is paying for the Internet access, much in the same way that the user doesn't pay for sending individual e-mails or chatting over the Internet. VoiP is also known as Internet telephony, IP telephony, or Voice over the Internet (VOI).

In the Philippines, the NTC has declared VoIP as a value-added service and both Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and telecommunications companies offer the service.

Digital radio

The NTC has already come out with a draft circular pertaining to the rules and regulations of digital radio broadcast in the Philippines. The circular calls for the adoption of the Iboc technology, which is used in the United States, for digital radio broadcast here.

If you're using Yahoo messenger and you click on the radio icon, you start hearing a radio broadcast from the States via the Internet. This is digital radio, which is also known as digital audio broadcasting (DAB).

Digital radio is audio broadcasting, in which the analog audio is converted into a digital signal and transmitted on an assigned channel in the AM or more usually FM frequency range.

DAB is said to offer compact disc (CD)-quality audio on the FM (frequency modulation) broadcast band and to offer FM-quality audio on the AM (amplitude modulation) broadcast band. The technology was first deployed in the United Kingdom in 1995, and has become common throughout Europe.

Digital audio broadcast signals are transmitted in-band, on-channel (Iboc). Several stations can be carried within the same frequency spectrum. Listeners must have a receiver equipped to handle DAB signals. At the transmitting site, the signal is compressed using MPEG algorithms and modulated using coded orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (COFDM).

A digital signal offers several advantages

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Same Same	Love Isn't	104497	Carrie Underwood	Jesus Take The Wheel	104378
Ne Yo	When You're Mad	104436	Mary J. Blige feat. U2	One	104437
Kelly Clarkson	Because Of You	103490	INXS	Afterglow	104178
The Pussycat Dolls	Beep	104322	Coldplay	The Hardest Part	104480
Goo Goo Dolls	Iris (Chorus)	104501	Chris Brown	Yo (Excuse Me Miss)	104431
Rihanna	SOS	104396	James Blunt	You're Beautiful	104491
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Messages

Developments and emerging services in information and communication technology have been rapidly changing and shaping the landscape of the telecommunications industry. Technologies such as 3G, which allows for wireless videoconferencing through mobile devices, VoIP, which allows for voice calls to go through the Internet, RFID or embedded micro digital tags, digital radio and digital TV, Wi-fi and Wi-max—each becoming the buzz words of everyday conversations—are transforming not only the concerned industries or spawning new enterprises, but influencing greatly the way people work, live and play today.

The world is getting smaller indeed by the kilobyte of information and message sent through the complex network of cables or just through the thin air. The amazing and exciting world of telecommunications herald the electronic era, of a future where digital technologies will become a major part of our everyday lives.

The National Telecommunications Commission, which currently celebrates its 27th anniversary, is at the forefront of these innovations, is keeping to its mandate of regulating the industry and providing an environment that ensures reliable, affordable and viable infrastructure and services in information and communications technology (ICT) accessible to all.

The NTC envisions the country to become a leading ICT-driven economy in Asia in the near future. With the help and cooperation of the big and small players in the industry in making telecommunications world robust and energized, NTC's vision isn't far behind.

Mabuhay!

Ronald Olivar Solis
Commissioner
National Telecommunications Commission

For the past 15 years or so, we have seen leaping developments in the information and communications technology—from a less competitive to a highly competitive industry, from the traditional fixed landlines to digital 3rd generation mobile phones, from a limited number of users to millions of subscribers; and we are now about to commence our journey towards digital radio and television broadcast.

These developments, however, are not without its problems and challenges. Challenges such as protecting the telecommunications and broadcast industries vis-a-vis the welfare of the consumers; if not improving the quality of our telecommunications systems, then it is increasing its coverage or accessibility (especially in the still unserved municipalities and *barangays*) but at the same time making sure that the rates are reasonable and affordable; issues such as cable piracy, cell phone related crimes such as theft, text scams; and a small peso budget regulating a multi-billion dollar industry. Commissioner Ronald Olivar Solis, Deputy Commissioner Jorge V. Sarmiento, and I have always welcomed these for we view these challenges and problems as an opportunity for us to solve them and shine.

Many of our efforts are geared towards these. We have entered into various tie-ups and partnerships with government as well as private entities. We have embarked on the eNTC project that aims to establish the accuracy and linkages of the systems within the NTC Regional Offices all over the country and improve our services for the benefit of the industry players and the general public, consistent with 10-point economic "BEAT THE ODDS" agenda of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The road ahead may not be easy but with the help and perseverance of our colleagues in the NTC and the concerned industries, the travel will be less arduous and in the end, the objectives reached.

Mabuhay!

Jaime M. Fortes, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
National Telecommunications Commission

As the National Telecommunications Commission celebrates its 27th anniversary I congratulate my co-workers in the NTC for another year of outstanding public service. I am proud to say that you have done a good job. I am happy to be part of this Team NTC.

The telecommunications industry is rapidly changing. And changes in technology open more avenues for communication. In fact, new technologies have changed the way we work, live and play, for the better.

The telephone has enabled people to transcend the barrier of time and distance. Technology has come a long way from cabled telephones with the introduction of wireless technology. People can now transmit information wirelessly from great physical distances, as Thomas Friedman would have it, the "world is flat." People can now communicate with each other in real time ushering in an era of free-flowing information, which, if used wisely, will lead to prosperity and innovation.

In the Philippines with the advent of 3G, third generation mobile communication, the telecommunications industry has now in fact, moved from the business of ears to the business of eyes. With 3G one can now transmit information to a mobile phone at 2mbps, making it possible to send e-mail, surf the Internet, watch a program telecast, and even have live-video streaming from the person one is calling.

With all these innovation, almost magical, the National Telecommunications Commission stands at the forefront.

The primary task of the Commission is regulation. The flipside of regulation is consumer protection. With the advent of new technologies in communication, the Commission while tasked with the regulation of this industry, also insures that the government policy is attuned with said changes. And the NTC's important thrust is the protection of the Filipino consumers by adopting regulatory measures that are both up to date and forward-looking.

However, it is a fact that with these new ways of communicating also come opportunities for abuse. That is why the policy of providing for cybersecurity to consumers and industries is now embodied in the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000. the National Telecommunications Commission plays a critical role in enforcing this law in the field of telecommunications.

Data sent through the Internet and through mobile phones transcend traditional physical boundaries. The protection of these data is of paramount importance for more and more information is coursed through this medium and some are in the nature of commercial information. The protection of commercial information means protection of the country's economic well-being.

Providing for security in the information and communications technology industry should and must be of primary importance to every country and economy.

A very happy anniversary to the NTC on its 27th year of continuous and unselfish service to our countrymen!

Jorge V. Sarmiento
Deputy Commissioner
National Telecommunications Commission

Pushing for an ICT-driven economy

From page 11

Digital television often has a superior image, audio quality and better reception than analog. However, it should be noted that digital television picture technology is still in its early stages and there are many advances yet to be made in eliminating picture defects not present on analog television or motion picture cinema.

over conventional analog transmission, including improved sound quality, reduced fading and multipath effects, enhanced immunity to weather, noise, and other interference, and expansion of the listener base by increasing the number of stations that can broadcast within a given frequency band.

3G technology

The NTC has given four major domestic carriers the go signal to provide 3G cellular services from 2008. Smart Communications, Globe Telecom, Digital Mobile Philippines and Connectivity Unlimited Resources Enterprise will be able to transmit high-bandwidth, high-speed applications such as video conferencing via cellular-phone networks.

These cellular carriers are required to set up the needed infrastructure of 3G services by 2007 and roll out the services by 2008. Globe Telecom and Smart have already successfully tested their 3G services using an EDGE upgrade to their existing GSM network equipment.

3G refers to the third generation of developments in wireless technology, especially mobile communications. 3G includes capabilities and features such as enhanced multimedia (voice, data, video, and remote control); usability on all popular modes (cellular telephone, e-mail, paging, fax, videoconferencing, and Web browsing); broad bandwidth and high speed (upwards of 2 Mbps); roaming capability throughout Europe, Japan, and North America.

While 3G is generally considered applicable mainly to mobile wireless, it is also relevant to fixed wireless and portable wireless. A 3G system should be operational from any location on, or over, the earth's surface, including use in homes, businesses, government offices, medical establishments, the military, personal and commercial land vehicles, private and commercial watercraft and marine craft, private and commercial aircraft (except where passenger use restrictions apply), portable (pedestrians, hikers, cyclists, campers), and space stations and spacecraft.

The current status of mobile wireless communications, as of June 2006, is a mix of 2nd and 3rd generation technologies

Digital TV

Digital television will soon be the norm of TV broadcasting as the NTC announced the planned transition to digital television of TV broadcasting by 2015. The NTC and broadcasting firms are currently working on guidelines to the planned transition. By next year, the NTC expects to accept applications among firms moving to digital TV.

Digital television (DTV) is a telecommunication system for broadcasting and receiving moving pictures and sound by means of digital signals, in contrast to analog signals in analog (traditional) TV. It uses digital modulation data, which is digitally compressed and requires decoding by a specially designed television set or a standard receiver with a set-top box.

Digital television has several advantages over traditional TV, the most significant being use of a smaller channel bandwidth. This frees up space for more digital channels, other non-television services such as pay-multimedia services and the generation of revenue from the sales of frequency spectrum taken by analog TV. There are also special services such as multicasting (more than one program on the same channel), electronic program guides and interactivity.

Digital television often has a superior image, audio quality and better reception than analog. However, it should be noted that digital television picture technology is still in its early stages and there are many advances yet to be made in eliminating picture defects not present on analog television or motion picture cinema. This is due to present-day limitations of bandwidth and the compression algorithms commonly used, such as MPEG2, the effects of which are not immediately apparent unless compared side by side with the original program source, such as a 16/35mm motion picture film print.

NTC warns against "text scam messages"

THE PUBLIC IS STRONGLY ADVISED to be vigilant and not to fall prey to text scam messages informing innocent subscribers that they have won a special prize sponsored by telecommunications companies such as Globe, Smart and Sun; by government agencies like PAGCOR, PCSO, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas etc.; and foundations like the ABS-CBN Foundation, GMA 7 Foundation, and many others.

The following are indicators of text scam:

1. The messages came from ordinary 11-digit cellphone numbers (e.g. 0917xxx-xxxx, 0919xxx-xxxx, 0922xxx-xxxx etc.);

2. Winners are being asked to pay cash, deposit money in the bank allegedly to pay for VAT, taxes, etc., to transfer any amount of money through whatever means to any person, or send prepaid loads (or credits) as a condition for claiming their prize;

3. The subscriber is declared as "winner" without joining any promotion;

4. A fraudulent call is made or an SMS is sent for the primary purpose of soliciting money for reasons which usually involve a situation of dire need (an emergency such as a loved one is in the hospital or has met an accident).

As the government agency mandated to regulate the telecommunications industry, the NTC is very vigilant in its campaign against illegal text messaging.

More than 1,000 flock to NTC's medical mission

MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM THE "Serbisyo Muna" medical mission program held July 19 at the grounds of National Telecommunications Commission, which is celebrating its 27th anniversary.

The free medical and dental mission with free x-rays benefited the *barangays* adjacent to the NTC compound in Diliman, Quezon City. The half-day event was done in coordination with Pagcor.

The indigent families also received bags of groceries and relatives of OFWs also enjoyed free calls abroad through NTC's "Libreng Tawag."

The activities are in line with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "Serbisyo Muna".

Innove ushers the Philippines into the broadband age

INNOVE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. has embarked on a major rollout of its broadband network in key locations within its service areas for the past years. Innove, led by its professional and dynamic people, aims to make broadband Internet access available to every Filipino home.

The company strives to deliver the real benefits of broadband to every individual - building stronger relationships especially those with families abroad and opening greater opportunities for Filipino businesses. With the Internet as the great equalizer, broadband gives one access to all the potential knowledge in the world.

Innove (with its parent company, Globe Telecom), through the Enterprise Business Group and Consumer Broadband Group, intends to ignite a broadband revolution in the country, ushering it into the broadband age. The Enterprise Business Group carries the GlobeQUEST and GlobeSolutions brands while the Consumer Broadband Group carries Globelines and Globe Broadband.

As Innove continues to expand its broadband network, it has made fast and high speed Internet access available in all key locations within its service areas. For the company, this is a very important project because with this every Filipino consumer will be able to realize the full promise of the Internet, which is access to compelling content anytime and anywhere.

The Internet is one of the drivers in today's broadband revolution and by embarking on network expansion projects the Philippines' infrastructure is further developed to be at par with the rest of the world. This endeavor is also in line with Innove's thrust to help in nation-building.

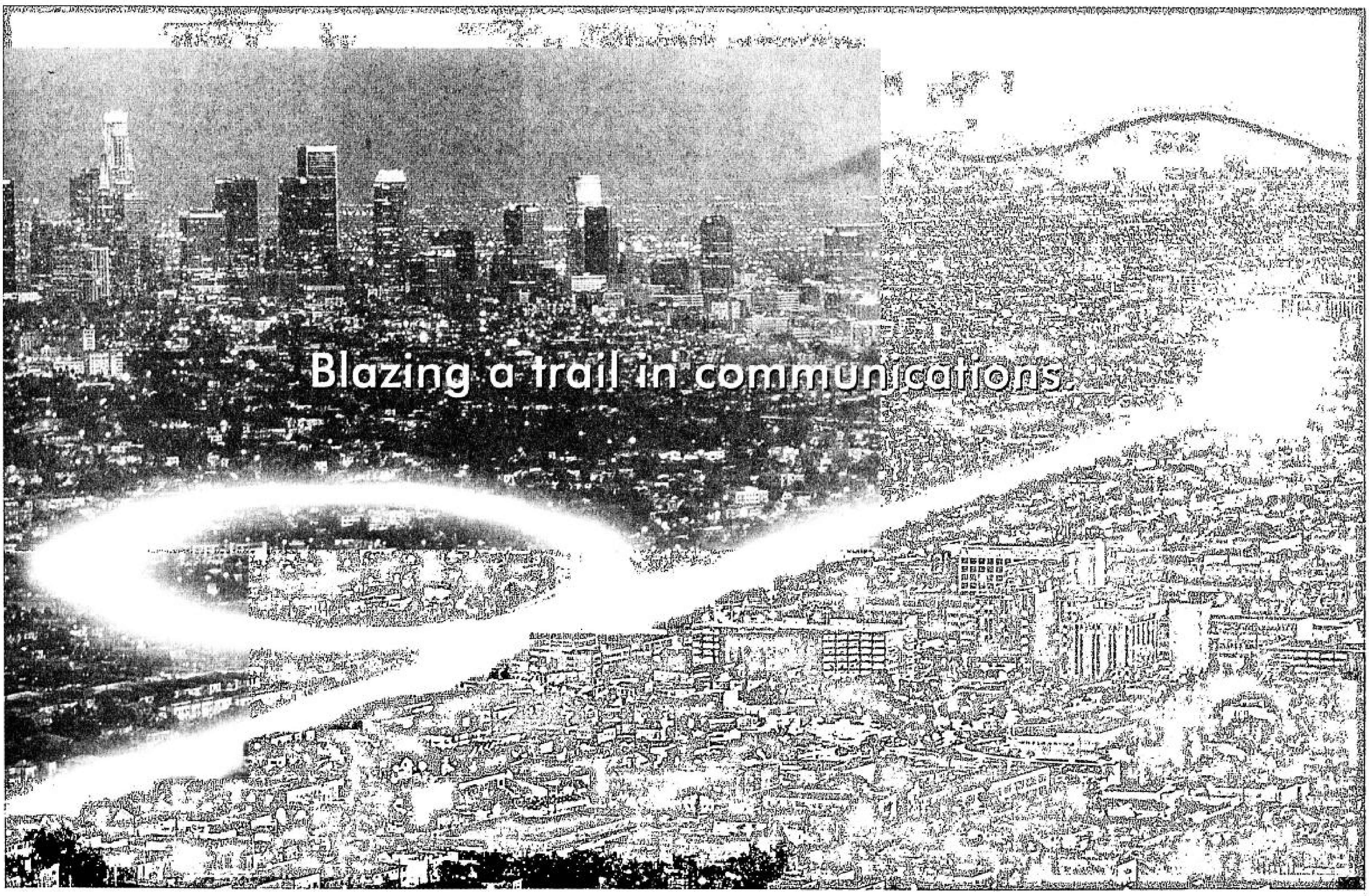
To Innove, broadband is not just about faster, better or easier connectivity but communications that will fundamentally transform how businesses operate and how families lead their lives each day. It is not only about connectivity or DSL (digital subscriber line) but also a radical and innovative set of services that are being offered to customers to link them to a broader social community. There are the services behind it, the content, the community and the overall experience of an individual user.

As the demand for high speed Internet access continues to grow, Innove is able to provide for this need through its extensive network facilities and wide scale broadband network services.

Aside from making broadband connection available to every subscriber within its originally-assigned service areas, Innove also makes sure that broadband Internet access is within reach of more consumers by providing quality and reliable service that is at the same time affordable.

Meanwhile, as a boost to Innove's efforts to usher the country into the broadband age, last year the company was granted a nationwide license by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC). In an order issued by the NTC, it gave Innove the authority to operate in areas throughout the nation.

Innove is a total telecommunications solutions provider that has invested in a state-of-the-art digital network to provide modern communications services such as broadband Internet access.



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Happy Anniversary to NTC from Globe Telecom and Innove Communications.

Globe, GXI and MRT
embark on landmark partnership

As our nation's capital, Metro Manila has always been at the center of economic, cultural, and political activity, cultivating a fast-paced and cosmopolitan lifestyle – and the attendant social problems that this entails, such as overcrowding and excessive traffic. Inaugurated in 2000, the Metro Rail Transit was envisioned to be the cornerstone of an integrated railway system designed to alleviate the chronic vehicle congestion along EDSA, one of the country's major thoroughfares.
Traversing 16.9 kilometers, with thirteen stations strategically placed between Taft Avenue in Pasay City and North Avenue in Quezon City, the MRT provides affordable high-speed access to the city's key gateways and commercial districts. The MRT was also the first transportation system to introduce multiple-journey passes with the ₱100 prepaid ticket.

Such innovations have placed the MRT at the forefront of transport innovation. Now on its sixth year of operation, the MRT once again embarks on a pioneering venture by teaming up with G-Xchange, Inc., the wholly-owned Globe Telecom, Inc. (Globe) subsidiary enfranchised for the purpose of developing, designing, administering, managing and operating software, applications and systems for m-commerce development; and Hypercash Payment System Inc. (HPSI), a provider of hardware and software services related to information and communications technology (ICT). The MRT is set to utilize G-Cash, the country's first integrated mobile payments platform, as an alternative medium for fare payments.

Easy pay. Easy pass sa MRT.

Dubbed G-Pass, the G-Cash powered chip is similar to existing prepaid tickets in that it allows passengers to make multiple payments with just one token. However, G-Pass brings transport convenience to the next level by allowing passengers to add extra fare payments at their leisure simply by reloading their G-Cash mobile wallet. With an extensive nationwide network of partner dealers, establishments, and institutions – enabling swift and secure reloading virtually anytime, anywhere – passengers skip the hassle of queuing long lines and grappling with loose change or big bills at the payment counter.

Interested commuters may soon avail of G-Pass chips – which come preloaded with an initial load of ₱50 – at reloading booths in MRT stations. Once purchased, the chip must be registered through any Globe or TM phone, and will only be activated by tapping it on the G-Pass reloading booths at the stations. Other conveniences provided by this transport payment innovation include mobile balance inquiry, free SMS alerts for each G-Pass transaction, and low-balance and reloading reminders.

GXI President Rizza Maniego-Eala sees G-Pass as an affirmation of G-Cash's continued commitment to uplifting the Filipino way of life through empowering m-commerce services. "This new partnership with MRT will enable G-Cash to further reach out to a greater segment of the Filipino population, and we look forward to facilitating other timely and essential m-commerce transactions in the future," said Eala.

An experimental alternative ticketing initiatiuve by:

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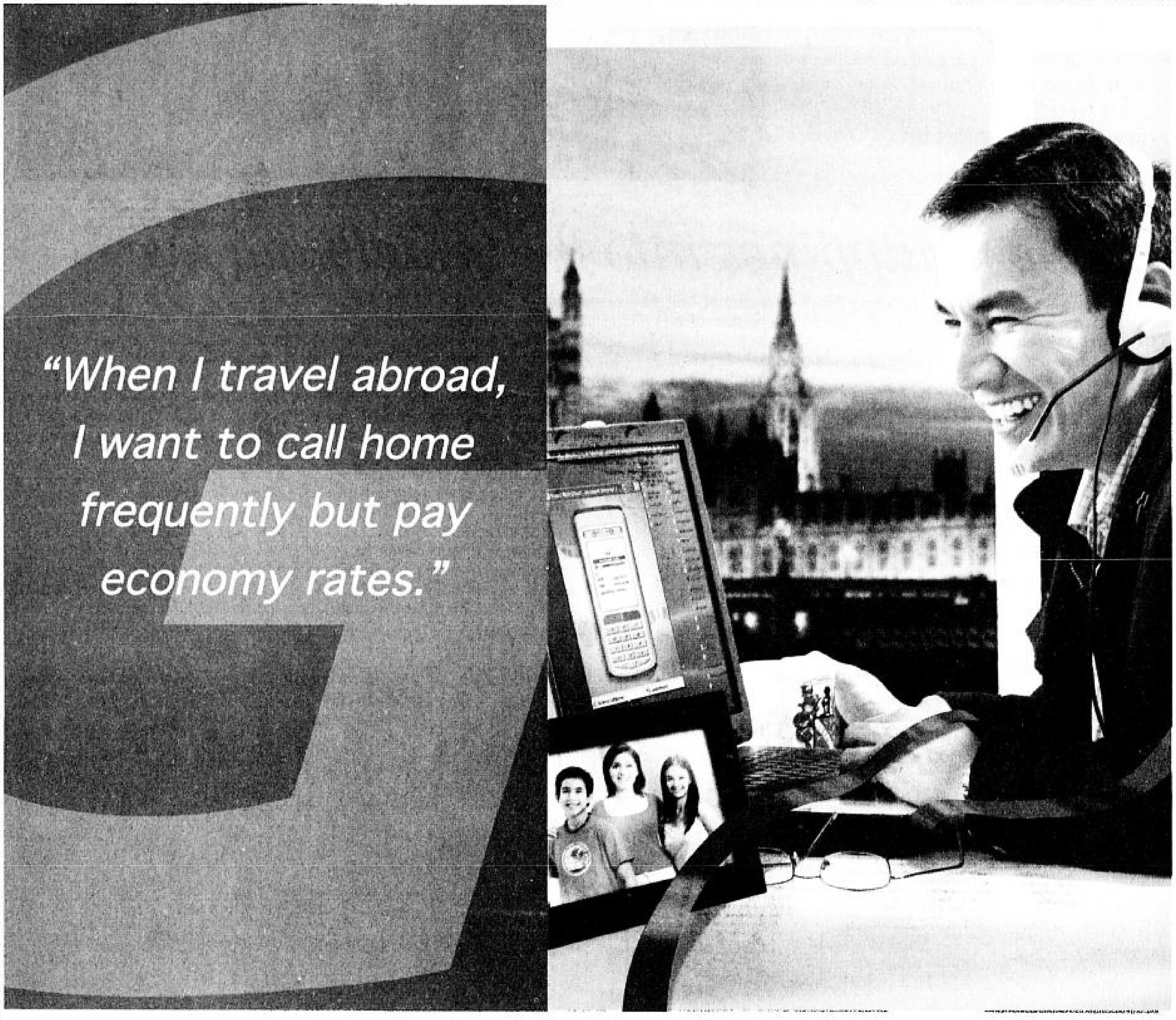

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